

Summer 2005

The Classic, Summer 2005

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CLASSIC

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Summer 2005

If These
Walls
Could Talk

To lay against your living
Breathing Body.
He kept it here to remember you, he pressed it
To his cheek.
He covered his face with it, pressing hard
He kept it here so he couldn't forget
The way you smiled
And your slow He ran his fingers
Along the seams.



Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

Committee Community

A few weeks ago, I spoke to a group of college presidents on the challenges and rewards of hiring for cabinet-level positions. We had just completed two successful searches for vice presidents (see page 8), and I was pleased to be able to reflect with my colleagues on our process. I was especially eager to share the concluding comment of one of our search committee members.

As the search committee for the vice president for academic affairs was leaving the room after its last meeting, a faculty member from our science division called us back for a moment to say he was sorry we would not be meeting again. He would miss us all and the fruitful conversation we had together.

Committee work a faculty member didn't want to see end—I could hardly believe it! Except I felt the same way, and so, we soon learned, did the other members of the search committee.

Both of our vice presidential search committees had wide representation, including faculty, staff, students and trustees. Some of the members did not know each other before the first meetings. The work of each committee was at times tedious and tense. Decisions did not come easily, especially in the early stages. But there is general agreement now that something special took place as the committees met week after week for several months.

The word “community” hardly communicates anymore; it has been so overused. But in the classic sense of the word, this is what happened: Persons with different experiences and perspectives came together to accomplish something beyond the capacity of any one of them alone.

The world of higher education is often divided between faculty and staff, academics and student life, school personnel and trustees. Even at Northwestern these territorial loyalties sometimes surface, but not so in these committees. Why not, my presidential colleagues wanted to know—and so did I.

Upon reflection and after discussion with committee members, I believe there are two reasons.

The first is that committee members got to know each other as persons and talked about things that really mattered. So often, purely personal conversation can turn to gossip, and serious discussion can become abstract. Yet, as these committees met, they learned who had kids to pick up after school and who had church tasks on Sunday and an anniversary next week. And they learned what mattered most to each one about Christian higher education and the future of Northwestern.

They became friends and, in a new sense, colleagues in a joint effort to educate a new generation of Christian disciples.

The second reason is prayer. Prayer was a critical feature of each of our meetings, and individually we covenanted to pray regularly for God's wisdom and guidance. We were not the only ones. Many people throughout our NWC family, including many of you, were praying with us. Far from a cursory veneer on our committee's work, prayer was central.

My fellow presidents were a bit stunned by Northwestern's experience of committee community and spiritual tenacity. Several were sure territorial interests would override larger institutional concerns most of the time. Some still preferred to make key personnel decisions themselves. And our spiritual focus was largely ignored.

Yet, I think it is fair to say they were impressed. The leader of our group of Iowa college presidents came up to me afterward to say, “I hope you realize what a unique group of folks you have up there in Orange City. We may be skeptical, but we are also jealous.”

For me personally, the experience was an inspirational reminder of what has been one of Northwestern's hallmarks for years: that the best learning for all of us—search committees, faculty, staff, presidents and students—comes through community and prayer as well as critical thinking.

Di and I continue to be honored and blessed to be a part of this unique and gifted NWC family. We thank you for joining with us.

Bruce Murphy

▼
“Persons with different experiences and perspectives came together to accomplish something beyond the capacity of any one of them alone.”
▲

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CLASSIC

Summer 2005

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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, July, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

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The award-winning interior of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center will be featured in the August issue of *American School & University* magazine.

Theatre facility wins architectural award

Northwestern's DeWitt Theatre Arts Center has earned a Silver Citation in *American School & University* magazine's 2005 Educational Interiors Showcase.

Judges applauded Cannon Moss Brygger & Associates and consultant Jerit Boys Inc. for their "attractive, flexible adaptive reuse" of the former Multi-Purpose Auditorium, saying the building's aesthetic supports the craft of the theatre.

The Northwestern facility was among a group of award winners that included projects at Emory University, the University of Oklahoma, Purdue University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The 52,000-square-foot DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, dedi-

cated in April 2004, consolidates all functions of Northwestern's nationally recognized theatre department into one highly visible campus location. The \$7.9 million building includes two theatres: a proscenium theatre, with fixed seating and a stage/orchestra pit, and a black box theatre that allows for a variety of production styles.

Todd Moss served as principal in charge of design, and Michele Rosenboom designed the interior.

The general contractor was Hoogendoom Construction. Engineering Design Associates Inc. provided mechanical and electrical engineering, while Midwest Design Group served as landscape architect.

Actuarial courses approved to meet professional standard

Courses in Northwestern's actuarial science program have been approved to meet standards in applied statistics, corporate finance and economics required as part of the professional process for becoming an associate actuary.

The approval by the Validation by Educational Experience Administration Committee, representing three actuarial societies, means that NWC students who attain a grade of B- or better in the approved courses will receive credit toward

meeting the requirements to become an associate actuary. Other steps in that process include passing seven exams and taking a course on professionalism.

"This is an affirmation that we're offering a high-quality actuarial program,"

says Dr. Tim Huffman, associate professor of mathematics. "The approval gives our program greater credibility and ultimately translates into better job opportunities and salaries for our actuarial science graduates."

Northwestern hires Daumer to build nursing program



Dr. Ruth Dankanich Daumer, chairperson of the nursing department at Briar Cliff University since 2000, has been hired by Northwestern to direct the development of a new baccalaureate degree program in nursing.

"Northwestern has offered a pre-nursing program for many years and had a cooperative agreement with Briar Cliff until recently, and we have

found strong interest among prospective students in a full-fledged nursing program at Northwestern," says Dr. Bruce Murphy, president. "As we explored the feasibility of building a nursing program, we were extremely fortunate to attract Dr. Daumer to lead that effort.

"She is very highly qualified and respected as a leader in the nursing field, both locally and beyond. She also has a strong Christian commitment and believes in the Christian mission of Northwestern."

Daumer, an Orange City resident who taught at Briar Cliff since 1985 and served as program director for its Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree program for the last two years, says she is excited to be part of this new venture.

"I am delighted to continue my teaching ministry at Northwestern College and join my new colleagues in an unapologetic integration of faith, learning and service," she says. "Northwestern enjoys an enviable national reputation for a distinctive and substantial liberal arts experience, excellence in the social and natural sciences, and a cohesive and vibrant community."

Daumer says the new nursing program will be based on a synthesis of both the arts and the sciences, woven together by a Christian worldview. With only two Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree programs in the western half of Iowa, NWC seeks to help meet the urgent need for more nurses.

"Our region will be well served by this faith-inspired nursing education program," says Daumer. "I am excited about the opportunities God is providing us, and I look for-

ward to building a mission-driven and innovative nursing program that will prepare our graduates to promote health, healing and social justice in diverse communities, and to be image bearers of Jesus."

Northwestern will continue to offer its pre-nursing program as work begins on developing the bachelor's degree program. Daumer anticipates offering prerequisites for the proposed bachelor's program in 2006-07 as the college prepares to present a self-study to the Iowa Board of Nursing in February of 2007. Being granted interim approval at that time would mean that students could be admitted to the program. In the spring of 2010, when the first class of nurses is in its last semester, a national review team would visit the campus to evaluate the program and, if all the requirements are met, recommend accreditation.

Daumer coordinates a parish nurse ministry at Faith Lutheran Church in Orange City and at St. John's Lutheran Church in rural Ireton. She also coordinates and consults on parish nursing and health advocacy for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Iowa, as well as for churches across the nation.

A frequent presenter at national conferences, Daumer earned a doctoral degree in educational administration at the University of South Dakota. She received an M.S.N. from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and a B.S.N. from Briar Cliff. She is licensed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner/clinical specialist in community health nursing.

Van Peursem joins board



Tonya Van Peursem '94 has been appointed to the Northwestern College Board of Trustees. She joins the board by virtue of her position as president of the National Alumni Board.

Van Peursem serves as a learning and development consultant for Wells Fargo Education Financial Services in Sioux Falls. In May, she earned an M.B.A. from the University of Sioux Falls.

Remembering a pioneer



Surrounded by three of the newest buildings on campus, about 50 people gathered in April to honor one of the college's founders, the Rev. Seine Bolks. An apartment complex completed in 2003 was named in honor of Bolks, the first president of Northwestern's Board of Trustees. Bolks moved to Orange City from Michigan in 1872 at the age of 58 to become the initial pastor of First Reformed Church.

Westenberg receives staff award



Diane Westenberg, maintenance assistant, received the 2005 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award in April.

As the award winner, Westenberg receives a \$500 honorarium funded by the Alumni Association, a plaque, and a luncheon for her and her coworkers. The honor is given to recognize staff who consistently exceed expectations, personify a strong Christian commitment and distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community.

Northwestern employees nominated candidates, and a selection committee—which included a faculty member and the two previous winners of the award—selected Westenberg.

Housekeeper of Van Peurse Hall, Northwestern's main academic building, since she joined the staff in 1991, Westenberg was cited by nominators for her work ethic, cheerful attitude, servant's heart and role as a mentor to student workers.

"Diane's job involves cleaning the messes others make. Even on days where the weather contributes to large quantities of mud getting tracked throughout the building, Diane does not get upset; she just smiles and cleans it up," wrote Dr. Scott Monsma, associate professor of sociology.

"Diane is an inspiration to our community because of her loving spirit and attitude," said Jan Kircher, assistant professor of social work. "She goes above and beyond to serve Christ and others. She believes in others and always sees the good in them."

"It is clear that in many ways, Diane is as much a mentor of students as are members of the faculty," said Monsma. "The lessons she imparts to students will have an impact that is felt long after they graduate. Diane is the type of exemplar whose life and work call us all to live lives of excellence and service."

Sociology students' scores soar

Northwestern's sociology seniors scored in the 95th percentile on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) sociology exam, administered to college sociology students across the U.S. and Canada last December.

"It is very gratifying to see that our students have once again achieved top scores on the ETS," says Dr. Scott Monsma, associate professor of sociology. "This reflects the fact that we have many excellent students in our program. The pattern of excellent scores over the past five years also suggests that [colleague] Dr. [Mike] Yoder and I have been able to successfully challenge our students to excel and develop a solid understanding of the discipline of sociology."

The latest scores replicate the strong performance of sociology seniors since 2000. Northwestern sociology majors scored in the 95th percentile last year, 97th percentile in 2001, and 94th percentile in 2000. The test was not administered in 2002.

Monsma notes the strong performance of sociology students has come while the department has been growing. In 2000, 26 students majored in sociology. There are currently 39 sociology majors.

Board votes to continue planning for learning commons project

Northwestern's Board of Trustees, meeting on campus in April, approved continuing with planning for the next campus addition, a new learning commons.

Architects from Cannon Moss Brygger and Associates (CMBA) of Sioux City, Iowa, and Grand Island, Neb., and The Durrant Group of Dubuque, Iowa, have been working on the facility's schematic design phase since January. Board members authorized moving on to the design development phase, which will culminate in a presentation at the Board of Trustees meeting in October.

The learning commons will house a new library and archives, computing services center, writing center, class-

rooms, auditorium, prayer room and coffee shop. The 74,000-square-foot facility has an estimated cost of \$19.9 million.

"Board members responded very positively to the work done by our architects," says President Bruce Murphy. "They were impressed with the 'God is Light' theme of the building—tying into Northwestern's historic motto—and the related efforts that have been made to get light into all areas of the structure. And they liked the many different kinds of student spaces, both formal and informal, for individuals and groups, that have been planned."

The board also voted to

approve launching a \$30 million capital fund-raising campaign, with a timeline yet to be established, featuring the learning commons project as its centerpiece. The campaign also seeks to raise \$3 million for the first phase of renovations to the Rowenhorst Student Center, \$5 million for academic innovations and \$2 million for endowed student scholarships.

A portion of the academic funds will be used to strengthen the communication studies program, including upgrading its facilities, and to create new classrooms and faculty offices in Ramaker Library and part of Van Peursem Hall that will be vacated following the

completion of the learning commons. Money raised through the campaign also will be used to create two new endowed faculty chairs and a faculty sabbatical fund, and to explore establishing new programs to meet student interest in a number of medical fields.

The campaign funds for student scholarships will be used to make it easier for ethnically diverse students and those from outside the Midwest to afford a Northwestern education. "Opening our students to the world and inviting a more ethnically diverse student population to study here is essential for providing a high-quality academic program today," says Murphy.

Athletic training program receives accreditation

Northwestern's athletic training education program became accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in May.

Graduates of the NWC program are now eligible, under new CAAHEP guidelines, to sit for the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer test to become certified as athletic trainers.

Program director Jennifer Rogers, a kinesiology instructor and certified athletic trainer, oversaw the accreditation application process, which included a comprehensive self-study, on-site evaluation, review by the accreditation committee, and finally, approval by the CAAHEP board of directors.

Northwestern's program will retain its accreditation until May 2010, when it will be eligible for renewal.



Athletic training students Heidi Te Brink and Jessica Healey measure the Q-angle of Casey Weerheim's leg. Also shown are Jordan Freiborg (back to camera) and Jennifer Rogers, athletic training program director.

NWC welcomes new vice presidents

Two new vice presidents have joined Northwestern's leadership team this summer. Dr. John Brogan, a member of Northwestern's religion faculty since 1997, is serving as vice president for student development. Dr. Jasper Lesage, dean of social sciences at Dordt College since 1990, is serving as vice president for academic affairs.

"We are very pleased to attract John and Jasper to these positions," says President Bruce Murphy. "They bring extensive leadership experience, a love for students and a strong commitment to Northwestern's mission."



Dr. John Brogan

Brogan, who won the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in 2000 and chaired Northwestern's Student Affairs Committee for two years, says he's excited to begin his new role.

"Our student development staff are functioning really well and doing a lot of good things," he says. "I'm eager to explore how we can work more closely with academic affairs to produce students able to think critically and engage the culture in a way that is thoughtful and faithful to Christ."

Brogan joined Northwestern's faculty after teaching at Calvin College and Palm Beach Atlantic College. He received a doctoral degree in New Testament and Christian origins from Duke University, an M.Div. from Bethel Theological Seminary,

and a master's in modern Near Eastern and North African studies from the University of Michigan. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Dayton.

Brogan replaces Dr. Paul Blezien, who became vice president for student development at William Jessup University near Sacramento, Calif., last summer. Kim Case, associate dean for student programs, served as interim dean in 2004-05.



Dr. Jasper Lesage

Lesage, an expert in strategic planning and student learning who joined Dordt's business and economics faculty in 1984, says he is looking forward to joining the NWC community.

"I really enjoyed my time visiting Northwestern's campus and was impressed with the kinds of questions they asked, the things they were interested in. It was clear they are committed to preparing students for competent and faithful service as citizens of the kingdom of God."

Lesage earned doctoral and master's degrees in economics from the University of Toronto and has conducted research in economic history. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Ontario's Brock University.

Lesage replaces Dr. Karen Cianci, who resigned in the fall of 2003. Dr. Eric Elder, professor of business and economics, served as interim vice president for academic affairs since then.

SIFE team finishes among top 40 nationally

Northwestern's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team was named first runner-up in its league at the national contest in Kansas City, Mo., in May, finishing among the top 40 teams out of 200 at the competition. There are well over 900 SIFE teams in the country.

Only one school from Iowa, Nebraska or South Dakota did better at nationals

than Northwestern.

"Our students did exceedingly well," says Dr. Mike Avery, the Northwestern team's adviser and an assistant professor of business and economics. "A number of observers and judges came up after their presentation and complemented them on their professionalism and preparedness. The judges were also very

impressed with their character and personality."

This was Northwestern's second-best performance at the national contest since the school began a SIFE team five years ago. In 2002, NWC placed among the top 16 colleges nationally.

This year's Northwestern presentation focused on several projects, including developing a self-sustaining kit—

requiring only sunlight and water—that could enable Third-World families to raise fish and grow vegetables; teaching business ethics and personal finance to high school and college students; providing consulting services; and developing "The GM," a business-oriented reality TV show.

Vocation exploration continues through summer

Vocare: Find Your Place, the program funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, is making a number of faculty and student projects and internships possible this summer. All have as their goal helping students find their place in God's world.

Five Lilly Faculty Fellows each received a \$3,000 stipend to read, research, write and present a paper to the campus community this fall.

Michael Andres, religion; Dr. Dave Arnett, chemistry; Dr. Adrienne Forgette, psychology; Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre; and Dr. Randy Jensen, philosophy, each are researching within their respective divisions of humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and the arts to answer the question: What does vocation have to do with Christian liberal arts education?

Their presentations are intended to help the campus community explore questions and issues surrounding a theological understanding of vocation and the role of the Christian liberal arts in helping students determine their life calling.

In addition, 10 faculty members received \$500 each to incorporate the theme of vocation and calling into 2005–06 courses in the programs of athletic training,

biology, business, English, foreign languages, history, music, political science and psychology. And six faculty members are spending the summer working with Kirsten Hyatt, career counselor in NWC's Career Development Center, exploring ways to be more effective advisers.

Several faculty have received funds for exploratory trips to develop

new off-campus courses. Dr. Todd Tracy, biology, hopes to develop a stewardship ecology course that would take students to Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Dr. Juyeon Kang, music, and Grace Rohrer, international student counselor, are hoping to develop a course in Korea and Japan. Rick Clark, Spanish, will be traveling to Ecuador, and Mark Vellinga, computer science,

will visit India.

Six students interested in ministry have been selected for summer internships funded by the Lilly Grant at churches in Orange City; Sioux Center; Three Lakes, Wis.; Phoenix; and Millstone, N.J. In addition, three students will participate in a five-day Wycliffe Bible Translators introductory course in cross-cultural translation.

A proud moment



Terry and Gustavo Oliveras flew from Victorville, Calif., to celebrate the graduation of their daughter April, a Cum Laude sociology major. She became part of the largest graduating class in school history when 297 diplomas were awarded at commencement exercises on May 14.

Faculty/staff news

Dr. Doug Anderson, history, served as a panelist for a session on "Iowa Letters: Dutch Immigrants on the American Frontier" at the biennial meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies in June, held in Sioux Center.

Dr. Keith Anderson, spiritual formation, spoke at the Campus Ministry Conference of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) in West Palm Beach, Fla., in February. He presented "The Campus Minister as Scribe: The Role of Scripture in a Post-modern World." He also directed the CCCU's second Summer Institute for Campus Ministry in June on Washington's Whidbey Island.

Dr. Michael Avery, business, presented a briefing on "Emerging Issues in the Commercial Trucking Industry" at a U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command conference on transportation logistics, held in Detroit in March. Additionally, he and Kimberly Vanden Brink '05, a business administration/finance and management major from Orange City, wrote "Radio Frequency Identification: Tool of the Future," which appeared in the February issue of *The Voyager*, a publication of TRANSLOG International.

Jeff Barker, theatre, and **Dr. Tom Boogaart**, professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, gave presentations at the Calvin Symposium for Worship and the Arts, held in January in Grand Rapids, Mich. They spoke on "The Plays of the Old Testament."

Barb Dewald, spiritual formation, gave a presentation on team dynamics at the Short-Term Mission Leader Conference hosted by STEM Ministries and Bethany School of Mission in Minneapolis in April.

Dr. Laura Heitritter and **Lila Sybesma**, education, spoke at the Iowa Reading Association's annual conference in Des Moines in April. Heitritter's presentation was "What Do Iowa Principals Want Teachers to Know and Be Able to Do?" Sybesma spoke on "Reading the Write Way," offering ideas teachers can use to motivate and engage their students in writing. In addition, Heitritter, Sybesma and **Jolynn Tonsfeldt** delivered a combination of sessions as professional development for teachers in the Boyden-Hull (Iowa) School District in April.

Dr. Thomas Holm, music, has been awarded a technology grant from the Iowa College Foundation. He is using the funds to create a large digital bank of selected audio, VHS, DVD and website clips for easy integration into the lecture sequence of his music history courses, providing students a more richly varied exposure to the subject matter.

Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, received a prestigious fellowship from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival to participate in the O'Neill Critics Institute at the

Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Waterford, Conn., in July. The institute enables critics to work on their craft as they view debut readings of new plays by nationally known playwrights while being taught by some of the nation's foremost theatre critics. The participants also will visit with guest playwrights like Edward Albee and A.R. Gurney.

Dr. Juyeon Kang, music, performed a piano-violin duo recital with Arturo Delmoni from New York City at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a solo piano lecture recital at Alvernia College in Reading, Pa., in March. She gave a solo piano recital at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls in April and traveled to her home country of Korea in May to perform at Ho Nam Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Dr. Barb Top, education, is the author of an article published in the spring issue of the *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. She contributed "On Being a Parent (of a Child With Autism)."



Dr. Joonna Trapp, English, received Northwestern's \$10,000 Competitive Summer Research Grant. She used the grant to travel to state historical societies and university archives in Arkansas, Georgia and Louisiana as part of her research on the 19th-century lyceum movement, a self-education movement that featured public lectures, concerts and entertainment. Trapp will use a sabbatical next year to begin writing a book examining the role of popular oratory in the South before the Civil War and its impact on the region's ideas and culture. Trapp also received a Lilly Grant to present "A Theater of Empowerment: Spiritual Rhetorics in the Slave Community" at the Inquiries into Rhetoric and Christian Tradition conference in Chicago in May.

Cornie Wassink, development, gave two presentations in May. He spoke on "The Use and Misuse of Life Insurance as a Charitable Gift" at a meeting of the Planned Giving Council of Siouxland in Le Mars. He presented "The Ethics of Fund Raising" to the Association of Fund-raising Professionals in South Sioux City, Neb.

Dr. Joel Westerholm, English, participated in a selective National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar: Religious Experience and English Poetry, 1633-1985. The 17-person seminar was held at the University of Notre Dame in June and July and was led by Dr. Kevin Hart, award-winning poet and renowned poetry scholar. Westerholm hopes the seminar will enable him to expand the book he's currently writing on poetry and Christianity and provide new material for his course on poetry and prayer.

Faculty/staff news *continued*

An article by **Dr. Robert Winn**, history, was published in the March issue of *Vigiliae Christianae: A Review of Early Christian Life and Language*. The article is entitled "The Natural World in the Sermons of Eusebius of Emesa."

Dr. Marc Wooldridge, music, performed Russell Peterson's newly commissioned concerto for marimba and band, *The Life of King David*, in April with bands at Houghton College of New York and Indiana Wesleyan University. Also that month, he performed the concerto and his solo touring recital at the Minnesota Days of Percussion hosted by Concordia College, and he directed Northwestern's Percussion Ensemble at the Iowa Day of Percussion hosted by Central College.

Faculty/staff receiving service awards in April were:

- 25 years: **Jeff Taylor**, theatre
- 20 years: **Glenda Brenneman**, admissions; and **Dr. Eric Elder**, business

- 10 years: **Kim Case**, student development; **Barb Dewald**, spiritual formation; **Dr. Adrienne Forgette**, psychology; **Dr. Keith Fynaardt**, English; **Tamara Fynaardt**, public relations; **Jeff Guthmiller**, admissions; **Dr. Jackie Smallbones**, religion; **Dr. Sara Tolsma**, biology; **Art Vander Pol**, maintenance; and **Jay Wielenga**, development.

The Board of Trustees has announced the awarding of tenure and promotions:

Tenure was awarded to **Dr. Dave Arnett**, chemistry; **Dr. Laurie Furlong**, biology; **Dr. Ann Lundberg**, English; **Dr. Scott Monsma**, sociology; **Dr. Joonna Trapp**, English; and **Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff**, political science. Each of them was promoted to the associate professor rank, as was **Dr. Laura Heitritter**, education.

Dr. Kim Jongerius, math, and **Dr. Jackie Smallbones**, religion, were promoted to the professor rank.

Faculty awarded mini-grants for summer research

Ten faculty members received institutional funding to conduct summer research and scholarship.

Mini-grants of up to \$2,250 were awarded to seven professors, while another three were the recipients of grants of up to \$5,000 for collaborative research with students.

Karen Acker, art, is creating a series of large-scale sculptures inspired by the planting and harvesting cycle of crops in northwest Iowa. She is employing a slip-casting technique using porcelain and welded steel.

Dr. Randy Jensen, philosophy, is examining significant recent work on the ethics of homosexuality and drafting a paper critiquing various Christian perspectives on this issue.

Dr. Michael Kensak, English, is continuing his interdisciplinary study of medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer. Kensak is exploring how scientific and legal notions of "matter" inform Chaucer's understanding of poetic "matter."

Dr. Mike Kugler, history, is studying the similarities and differences in anti-Enlightenment claims by Christian scholars, members of the neo-Marxist Frankfurt School, and contemporary postmodern critics.

Dr. Jim Mead, religion, is continuing to do research and writing for his forthcoming textbook, *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods and Themes* (Westminster John Knox Press).

Kim Van Es, English, is collecting and writing stories set in Newkirk, Iowa, in the 1950s and '60s.

Dr. Marc Wooldridge, music, is creating the first of three 10-minute films featuring original music accompanied by images of nature. "South Dakota Rhythm" will feature aerial photography of South Dakota landscapes filmed by South Dakota Public Television. It will be written for marimba, vibraphone and clarinet.

Biology professors **Dr. Laurie Furlong**, **Dr. Abe Scheaffer** and **Dr. Todd Tracy** are involved in collaborative projects with students.

Furlong is comparing mainland and island insect drift patterns on California's Santa Cruz Island with Lisa Walters, a biology-ecological science major from Wagner, S.D.

Scheaffer is studying the various aspects of a lactating dairy cow's metabolism that likely contribute to a pregnancy rate, in conjunction with Trans Ova Genetics. He is being assisted by Laura Rensink, a biology-health professions major from Sioux Center, and Jason Helmus, a biology-health professions and chemistry major from Rock Valley, Iowa.

Tracy is working with Shawn McGhee, a political science major from Anthon, Iowa, studying the difference in dialects between house finches found in the Midwest and those in northern Colorado. They are also researching how the song repertoires of male house finches change as the birds age.

Students selected for competitive summer programs

Eight NWC students were chosen from applicants across the country to participate in summer research or internship projects. Each program provides students with a stipend, and many offer travel allowances and free housing.

Daniel Berntson, a senior philosophy and English major from Paullina, Iowa, is participating in a summer internship with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in Washington, D.C. He is assisting the NEH department that works closely with state humanities boards.

Jill Bowman, a junior biology-health professions major from Britt, Iowa, is working as a summer fellow in the hematology and oncology department of Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wis. She is reviewing data from cases in which protocols for cancer trials were tested.

Emily Fischer, a junior Christian education major from Arlington, S.D., and Maggie Keelan '05, a writing & rhetoric major from Lincoln, Neb., were named undergraduate fellows by the Fund for Theological Education (FTE). As part of an effort to provide support and guidance to college students who are considering a career in ministry, the students attended the FTE's Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry in St. Louis, which featured renowned ministers and educators exploring various theological issues.

Amanda Gordon, a senior from Jenison, Mich., who is majoring in psychology and Spanish, is participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program in psychology at Oklahoma State University. With funding by the National Science Foundation (NSF), she is researching depression and anxiety in elementary-aged children.

Michael Holm, a senior mathematics major from Orange City, is participating in his second NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates program. He is working at the University of Akron on a real-world cryptography problem involving a collection of correspondence, written in code, between 16th-century Spanish kings and their ambassadors in Italy. Last year, Holm pursued research in numerical analysis and differential equations at the University of Tennessee.

Melinda Jansen, a junior biology major and chemistry minor from Newton, Iowa, is conducting research in an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Memphis. She is on a team that is exploring such areas of research as organometallic photochemistry, mass spectrometry, colloid chemistry and polymer modeling.

Alex Kolb, a senior from St. Paul, Minn., who is majoring in biology-health professions and chemistry, received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from Mayo Graduate School in Rochester, Minn. He is conducting research in immunology.

History student wins award for essay

Clarissa Janssen '05, a history major from Palmer, Iowa, won an award at the 40th annual Student History Conference at the University of South Dakota in April. She received the U.S. history paper prize for her essay, "*The Gilded Western Sun: The Influence of the American Dream and Landscape in Mormon Hymnody and Folksongs.*"

The conference was sponsored by the University of South Dakota's Phi Alpha Theta history honors society.

Athletic training student wins scholarship

Heidi Te Brink of Durango, Colo., a senior athletic training and elementary education major, received one of three \$500 scholarships from the Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA).

Te Brink and students from Iowa State University and Luther College were selected from among 12 applicants to receive the MAATA Undergraduate Scholarship. They were chosen on the basis of academic achievement, personal and professional goals, community involvement and commitment to athletic training.

The winners were honored in March at the association's conference in Topeka, Kan.

Facevalue

Barbara Turnwall

English professor, nature lover and Northwestern historian

Describe yourself in three words.

Disciple, encourager, optimist.

Describe Northwestern in three words.

Academic faith community.

What is the most important part of your job?

Working with students and being a role model, encourager and facilitator of learning.

What's your unique perspective on NWC?

I was the first young female faculty member to work through the challenges of teaching and having a family when there were no policies for it. There was no policy for maternity leave—I just arranged for colleagues to fill in for me, and I went back to work two weeks after my children were born. Now policies are in place. I've grown with the institution. I'm now the senior faculty member, and I bring that perspective of history. I know where we came from as a four-year liberal arts college, and how we grew.

If you could study any subject besides your own discipline, what would it be?

I'd go to seminary to gain a greater perspective on my faith and the history of the church.

What do you dream of doing?

Traveling more in the United States, particularly the West—and in Europe. One thing I *don't* dream of is retirement.

What do you value?

The support and love of family, friends and colleagues. Good health. That I

have been called to a career I love. I didn't seek it out, yet God put me here. The beauty of the earth and opportunities to enjoy it. Every year my family goes to Schroon Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York—you can just drink in the beauty. My children are all adults now, but they want to go back every summer. I also love the beauty of the seasons, the beauty of the Midwest, gardening and critters—especially cats.

What makes you laugh?

My husband. That's one of the reasons I married him. It's how we cope with life. A merry heart is good medicine.

I'd just like to say ...

I'm indebted to the many persons of faith and vision who dedicated their time and abilities to build Northwestern. I've been here long enough to know many of their sacrifices.



Barbara Turnwall

Faculty Finale

Three professors who invested a total of 77 years in the life of Northwestern retired at the end of the 2004–05 school year. John Kaericher, Ron Takalo and Barb Top leave a legacy of commitment that influenced thousands of Northwestern students.

Outside the Lines

by Anita Cirulis

John Kaericher retires after encouraging students' creativity for 42 years

Whenever John Kaericher's niece and nephew brought out their coloring books, he would remind them, "Be sure to stay outside the lines."

Such advice fits perfectly with a philosophy that has

guided Kaericher's teaching for more than four decades: The goal of art is not about pleasing others but about self-expression and creativity.

After 42 years on Northwestern's faculty, Kaericher is retiring as the longest-serving professor in the college's history. During those years, more than 130 art majors and countless general education students found his classes a safe place to explore and develop their talents.

Kaericher, his former students say, liked to give students the freedom to try new things.

"He'd let you go in your own direction, but then he'd come back in and push you along that direction," says Kim Spradling '72, a professor of art at Northwest Missouri State University. "He was very good at letting you express your ideas and build on it, and he was there to help you solve the technical problems."

Focusing on technical skills was a vital part of Kaericher's role.

"I haven't found a student yet," he says, "who doesn't need help in making

"I felt like an art missionary. I just felt a calling to provide quality art experiences for people through the programs of the college."

artistic statements in the strongest possible way."

The flexibility Kaericher provided was always within the context of specific goals and deadlines.

Greg Foreman '68 began teaching art at Rock Valley (Iowa) High School shortly after graduating from NWC. He praises his former professor for the way Kaericher stressed the importance of developing one's drawing and perception skills. At the same time, he says, Kaericher was always careful about how he taught.

"He didn't like to work on our paintings," Foreman remembers. "He would demonstrate on his own pieces. He felt if he was doing any type of artwork on our projects, he was taking a bit of visualization from us."

Kaericher was hired in part to help Northwestern become a liberal arts institution and to establish an art major. He arrived to find one classroom in Van Peurse Hall called "the art room," with a storage closet stocked full of construction paper and children's crayons.

"I felt like an art missionary," Kaericher recalls, adding that few of the area's elementary or high schools



After earning an M.F.A. in printmaking from the University of Iowa, John Kaericher helped establish an art program at Northwestern with intaglio printmaking facilities that rank among the best of any small college in the region.

had art teachers at that time. “I just felt a calling to provide quality art experiences for people through the programs of the college.”

One of the ways he accomplished that was through the creation of a campus art gallery. Along with introducing the community to artists like Picasso and Rouault, the gallery gave students the opportunity to display their work.

In addition to establishing the gallery and the college’s permanent art collection, Kaericher helped the art department grow to two full-time professors shortly after his arrival. A year later, the department had its own building when the former Orange City Coop Creamery was transformed into the Bushmer Art Center. Today three full-time faculty and several adjunct professors encourage creativity in the new Korver Visual Arts Center.

The satisfaction that came from developing the program, Kaericher says, is part of the reason he never left Northwestern. Even more than staff and facilities, however, he takes pride in the impact NWC graduates have made in the world.

“We seeded the area,” he says of his former students. “Not all, but to a great extent, Northwestern art students taught in schools in the Midwest and especially locally that had no art programs before.”

Because of John Kaericher, more than one child will feel free to color outside the lines.

Adiòs, Amigo

Ron Takalo’s gifts as a builder and encourager helped Northwestern’s Spanish program grow

by Tamara Fynaardt

“Is the candy 23 years old too?” a student shouted from the crowd.

“No, no, no,” said Dr. Ron Takalo with a laugh, waving students and professors back as he flung a hammer, tied with a rope, over a low-hanging tree limb behind Noteboom Cottage. Before he raised the piñata tied to the other end, Takalo showed everyone the slit in the top, illustrating how he’d filled it with candy just that morning in anticipation of his last day of teaching Spanish at Northwestern.

Since 1982, when he left his job as a high school Spanish teacher in Michigan to join Northwestern’s faculty, the piñata, a gift from his former students, has hung in Takalo’s office.



Ron Takalo celebrated his retirement with a fiesta, finally breaking a piñata that hung in his NWC office for 23 years.

Takalo’s promise—that he’d keep it until he left NWC—spanned a career that included earning a doctorate, growing Northwestern’s language faculty from one to five and Spanish majors from 15 to 50, and teaching scores of students to appreciate language not just as words, but as a window to new ideas, people and cultures.

Takalo became passionate about Spanish language and culture as a sophomore in college, after spending a summer at the University of Mexico. He loved the music, the food, the people. He felt at home in a culture where relationships rule, rather than the clock or the bottom line.

Eager for others to have an experience similar to his, Takalo began taking Northwestern students on Spring Service Projects to Spanish-speaking countries like Mexico and Honduras

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A Special Educator

Barb Top to continue helping people with disabilities during retirement

by Emily Hennager '06

Dr. Barbara Top's career in special education has spanned 45 years and taken her to three continents. Yet the focus of her work has always been the same: to help people along their journey.

"My desire is to bring people from one place to another place. By using the gifts God has given me, I can help them use their gifts," she says. "I've always been for the underdog. I try to look for what's unique and different about each person."

After 12 years at Northwestern, Top retired this spring but still remains one of Iowa's experts in special education. She serves on the board of the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa and heads up its education committee, where she draws on her experience in many different facets of special education, including teaching, administration and rehabilitation.

This experience also reminds her that the field has changed during her career. She points to trends such as more students with special needs being included in regular classrooms. She views



Growing up with a sister, Karen, who has Down syndrome helped shape Barb Top's 45-year career of teaching and advocating for people with special needs.

these developments as positive but also realizes that now teachers need to be prepared for an even wider variety of student needs.

Her Survey of the Exceptional Individual class helped do just that. Required for all elementary and secondary education majors, the course sought to develop empathy and appreciation for people who have special needs.

"For many students, this was their first in-depth

picture of persons with special needs," she says. So Top started at the beginning, even addressing how to speak about disabilities. For example, they talked about a child with autism, not an autistic child.

"Labeling them by the disability doesn't give credence to all their other talents and abilities. What are the gifts and abilities they have?" she asks. "Then let's build on them."

Students say Top made

information from textbooks come alive by bringing a variety of speakers to her class—including adults who have special needs like blindness, autism and behavior problems. She also invited parents of children with special needs to provide their insights.

"When you read about disabilities in a textbook, it's easy to feel distant from it," says Chris Rensink, a sophomore elementary education major. "But when we heard

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“My desire is to bring people from one place to another place. By using the gifts God has given me, I can help them use their gifts. I’ve always been for the underdog. I try to look for what’s unique and different about each person.”

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Jenna Fox, a sophomore special education major and one of the student coordinators of Special Education Ministries, says it’s fun to watch Top interact with students with special needs.

“She sees the things we might miss,” Fox says. “Her smile and kindheartedness draw people in. People want to talk to her, and she always knows what to say to them.”

Top has used these gifts and abilities to serve in many parts of the world. Besides traveling to Guatemala, she has led workshops in Romania and volunteered with Mississippi Christian Family Services. At home, she works to raise awareness of disabilities by writing articles for her church’s national newsletter.

Though retired, Top has no plans to leave the field entirely and is considering another short-term missions trip to help those with disabilities. While she says she’s still waiting to see what doors God will open, her focus remains the same: helping people along their journey.

from people who’ve experienced it, it became personal and I was able to relate and understand it better.”

Top helped Northwestern students understand disabilities outside the classroom as well. Each of the past four years, she led a group of education students to Guatemala to work with children with disabilities. During the rest of the year, Top advised the Special Education Ministries, which works with local agencies to plan events for students with special needs, such as crazy food nights or holiday parties.

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“When you read about disabilities in a textbook, it’s easy to feel distant from it, but when we heard from people who’ve experienced it, it became personal and I was able to relate and understand it better.”

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Adiòs, Amigo continued from page 15

shortly after he arrived. Over the years, Takalo accompanied students on more than 15 service and study trips. He also encouraged Spanish majors as they spent semesters fulfilling the study abroad requirement in Spain or Costa Rica, assuring them immersion is the best way to become fluent.

A builder and encourager, Takalo counts recruiting and hiring Piet Koene, who received accolades for teaching excellence at NWC in 2003 and as Iowa’s Professor of the Year in 2004, as one of his greatest professional accomplishments.

Seeing Koene’s enthusiasm and energy for the higher-level language students—along with Koene’s ability to connect them to area Hispanics through his Spanish-speaking family and church—Takalo gave his colleague the department’s major courses and focused instead on the general education Spanish classes. Takalo infused the beginning classes with stories, artifacts and his adopted Latin American personality—open, boisterous and accepting—giving students a “language learning is fun” surprise.

As retirement neared, Takalo divided his energy between teaching and building a log cabin near Iron River, Mich. His brother found and cut down the trees, and Takalo hewed the

logs himself for a secure, airtight fit. He and his wife, Carol, plan to spend summers at the cabin and winters possibly in the Southwest.

At his piñata-breaking farewell, Takalo, dressed in his trademark “flags of the world” tie and red suspenders, shouted out instructions in Spanish. He grinned and made the piñata dance while one of his students, blindfolded, tried to hit it with the stick he’d given her.

Friend Dr. Mike Yoder was called out of the crowd next, and Takalo taunted him with the papier-mâché bull before letting a strike from Yoder break the piñata and create a shower of candy.

Students grabbed one or two pieces and hung around, hard candy pocketed in one cheek, to tease Takalo—sparing in Spanish a bit before heading off to study for exams. People chatted and laughed and called “Adiòs, amigo,” before drifting back to their dorm rooms and offices.

Takalo left to pack a few more boxes before heading north to the woods and a summer of fishing. Two students batted the piñata around until crepe paper covered the lawn. Pieces of it—like memories of his warm laughter and influence—probably will linger around campus for awhile.

More Than Math

NWC award winner teaches outside the cube

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

As a math teaching major, Peter Kolb expected his classes with Dr. Kim Jongerius to improve his math abilities.

What he didn't expect was that they would develop his life skills—and his interest in other, non-math subjects as well.

"I really appreciate the way she pulls her faith in with mathematics," says the junior. "She talked about this book, *Flatland*, about a character in a two-dimensional world who discovers a third dimension. Her point was even though we can't necessarily imagine certain things about God, we can have faith. I actually went out and bought the book and read it myself."

A math teacher using literature as a teaching tool? It's no surprise to anyone familiar with Jongerius' background—and it's one of the many qualities that students cited in nominating her for this year's Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.



Dr. Kim Jongerius received the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award, sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Student Government Association, in May. She was chosen from among 22 professors who were nominated by students.

Diverse background

Cross-curriculum study has been a lifelong passion for Jongerius. As an under-

graduate at Northern Arizona University, she majored in both mathematics and English. Since joining the Northwestern faculty in 1993, Jongerius has taught

an honors seminar on work and calling, served on a writing across the curriculum task force and even made a joint presentation with music professor Marc Wooldridge at

the New England Conference of Music Theorists at Yale University.

Students say that broad background adds an extra level of interest and discourse to her classes. In nominating her, they made comments such as:

- “Our syllabus for linear algebra this semester con-

- “We not only learn math, but we learn how to work with peers in problem-solving situations.”

“Her classes definitely aren’t formal, where you go in, cover the material and leave,” says senior Michael Holm. “She always takes extra time to talk about what’s going on around cam-



tained a passage from the Bible and from Confucius. In a very subtle but powerful way, she related these two quotes to the naming of things.”

- “She requires her math students to become better writers.”

pus, or share a story or a joke. Sometimes people would pop up with a comment or question about something outside of class, and she wouldn’t just shoot it down but would take a minute to talk about it.”

Personal connection

Jongerius also makes it a point to establish a personal connection with students. They learn about her own struggles as a math student and teacher. They hear about her family. In turn, they share with her about their own lives.

“I enjoyed how open she was about herself,” says Jerica Westra ’05. “She let you get to know her as a person, and she was concerned about us as individuals. When I went to her office, we wouldn’t just talk about math; we would talk about what was going on in our lives. I knew she cared about me, and that was a blessing.”

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“We not only learn math, but we learn how to work with peers in problem-solving situations.”
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Students also appreciate the extra time Jongerius is willing to spend with them. On her own time, she meets with students one evening a week for a math fun night, where she brings treats and they work on complex problems that have nothing to do with class.

But Jongerius’ fondness for students doesn’t make her go easy on them. “Her classes are probably the hardest ones I’ve ever had. But they’re also the ones I enjoy the most,”

Kolb says. “It seems like that shouldn’t be, but she challenges us, and that causes us to work harder. And when we do understand something, it makes us appreciate it more.”

Westra agrees. “When you’d go to her for help, she wouldn’t give you the answer, but she’d help you work through the problem and give the positive feedback you needed to keep going. And as you worked through it, the light bulb would go on. When I completed her classes, I knew it was something I did on my own, not like she did the work for me.”

Ultimately, the most valuable lesson students learn from Jongerius may be that math skills apply to more than just geometry problems.

“The biggest thing I learned from her is how to think clearly about problems and solve them step by step,” Holm says. “She’s taught me to think logically, to make sense of things that would otherwise be messy and undefined.”

“One of my favorite memories is how, at the end of the semester, she let us relax and play a game that dealt with math, to get our minds off our struggles with other finals,” says Westra, a math teaching major. “That’s a tool I’ve already shared with my own students as a student teacher—that sometimes you need to step aside from work and take time just to enjoy each other.”

Capturing the Moment

by Duane Beeson



A full-time teacher, Earl Hulst spends about 30 hours a week as a photographer. A frequent Blue Ribbon winner in Iowa State Fair competition, he says working with former Iowa Cubs players like Mark Grace and Greg Maddox has been among his photography highlights.

It's been more than three decades since Earl Hulst '74 had his high school senior portrait taken, but he remembers it like it was yesterday.

"I looked left for four shots, right for four, and the photographer said, 'Next.'"

Today, students want their portraits to reflect their personality and interests. They'll go to several locations, bring in props, wear different outfits, change their hairstyles.

And Hulst is there to make sure their portrait memories are better than his.

"Every kid's into something. You've just gotta find it," says Hulst, who photographs about 70 seniors a year.



Many of his subjects are students at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, who know him as a middle-school math teacher at Sacred Heart School. Others are athletes who see him at the sidelines of numerous area games with one of his six cameras in hand.



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"I enjoy the fun of getting into the games; it's the greatest seat in the world. I get a charge out of the game, and I go home with something. It's like playing, but I was never any good."

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About 60 percent of his seniors are young men who sense a kinship with Hulst.

"I know how self-conscious they feel," he says. "I

try to connect with them—talk about sports or whatever—and let them know it's not going to be too painful. I'm not going to have them try a dumb position and tell them silly jokes."

Hulst caught the camera bug when he was teaching and coaching in his hometown of Sheldon, Iowa. He started with individual and group photos of his teams and soon was shooting all of the Orab's games.

Today Hulst's photography includes college games for Drake and Iowa State. A

photo he took at the Drake Relays once graced the cover of that prestigious event's program.

"I enjoy the fun of getting into the games; it's the greatest seat in the world," says Hulst. "I get a charge out of the game, and I go home with something. It's like playing, but I was never any good."

He might not have been a superstar like Cal Ripken, but Hulst mentions the baseball legend when he describes his approach to photography.

"I show up everyday and do my job and hope I win some games. I don't read manuals or try gimmicks."



Earl Hulst



Finding a Place

by Amy
Scheer

From her nursing home bed, Bertha Schat told granddaughter Aleisa the story of the spelling bee.

A young Bertie and her family had traveled to the schoolhouse for the annual contest where, with hardly a hesitation, Bertie spelled her way to the final round. There was one word left, and Bertie's correct answer would almost definitely declare her the winner, destined next for the state competition in Des Moines.

Bertie couldn't imagine leaving Sioux County, where she was born and raised. She misspelled the word "conscience," on purpose.

Hearing stories like that, Aleisa Schat had trouble relating to her older relatives. Schat is a former model who worked in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago, all before she turned 20. She loves to see the world, write about it and dance to its rhythms. She found it hard to understand where Grandma was coming from.

Then she took a class.

Schat, a junior writing & rhetoric major from Sheldon, Iowa, took Dr. Keith Fynaardt's Writing the Farm course last fall. While researching a final paper for the course, Schat learned about a farm that has been in her family for 134 years. Gerrit Nijkamp, Schat's great-great-great-grandfather, emigrated from the Netherlands and was the first to settle a family there. The acreage near Sioux Center is still being farmed today, though the original farmhouse, where little Bertie grew up, has not been occupied for over 20 years.

A 1983 calendar, open to January, hangs in the small kitchen of the dilapidated house, marking the time when Schat's great-grandfather Ralph Lammers was no longer able to care for himself and was moved to the house of his daughter Ruth. Most of his belongings—and those of his wife, Kate, who had died a few years before—were left in the house.

Family members eventually cleaned out the valuables, and nature's elements damaged what remained. Today rem-



nants of once-active lives are strewn throughout the house, which will be torn down later this year: a *Reader's Digest* from September 1949, letters, a knitting basket with yarn still bright.

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"It's made poetry something that is more meaningful to me. Before, it was just a class, and then it became a way to connect with other people, to form relationships with other people, to understand their perspectives."
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"It was an eerie feeling," Schat says of her first visit to the house. "It took me quite a while to get over the feeling that I was trespassing, looking through their things. Eventually, I thought my great-grandfather would have really appreciated me taking an interest in the history and writing about it and trying to preserve some of it."

In the bedroom closet, Schat found a purple dress hanging next to a pair of overalls. Seeing those clothes made the lives of her great-grandparents tangible for Schat, who has modeled the fashions of top designers such as Oscar de la Renta and who has vague childhood memories of her grand-

father, sick and lying in a bed, always in his overalls. She carefully boxed up the clothes, along with some other personal items, and hung them in her dorm room closet.

Schat's final paper for Writing the Farm became part memoir, part Sioux

County history—a loving tribute to her family's heritage and her deep connection to these people. Her family was happy to tell its stories, Schat found, proud that one of its own was asking about them. Buoyed by fond memories, relatives celebrated Thanksgiving and

Christmas together for the first time in many years. When the ribbon-cutting ceremony is held for a house that's nearing completion on the homestead, they'll get together for that too.

"A lot of them are getting older, so I'm really lucky to be able to get their stories,

*Fingering dusty folds of dress, tarnished brass buttons
 Catch in my palm*

*Like they did in yours when you sewed them.
 A long row down the front,*

*From modest neckline to modest
 Hemline. The dusky purple imposing itself
 upon the burgundy—colors you chose.
 Colors you stitched together
 to follow your shape
 loosely.*

*To lay against your living
 Breathing body.*

*He kept it here to remember you, he pressed it
 To his cheek.
 He covered his face with it, pressing hard.*

So he couldn't forget

*The way you smelled
 And your stout proportions. He ran his fingers
 Along the seams*

Your handiwork.

Standing here, rooted to the spot

The closet gapes black

*Like a dying man.
 The last sigh of the house that now stands*

Empty. Your dress.

because it's getting to the point where those would be lost as well," Schat says. "It's been cool to find a story in my own family that's worthy of writing about, worth preserving."

While piecing together her paper, Schat had another project to consider. Professor Martin Cockroft asked his poetry class to take their poems off the page and into a place where people can interact with them. Schat, a dance team captain at Northwestern, initially tried to choreograph a dance to her poetry. Then she had an idea.

On what felt like the coldest day of December 2004, Schat took a handful of black magic markers and, with the permission of Aunt Judy, who still lives on the homestead, wrote poetry on the farmhouse. The nine poems appear on the outside of the house, the walls inside—even on the refrigerator.

Schat didn't expect her relatives to fully appreciate her poetry, some of which had a literal connection to the farm and some of which simply fit the feel of the abandoned household. She never guessed that her mother would take her friends to see the poems, or that the Habit for Humanity workers building a house on the property would

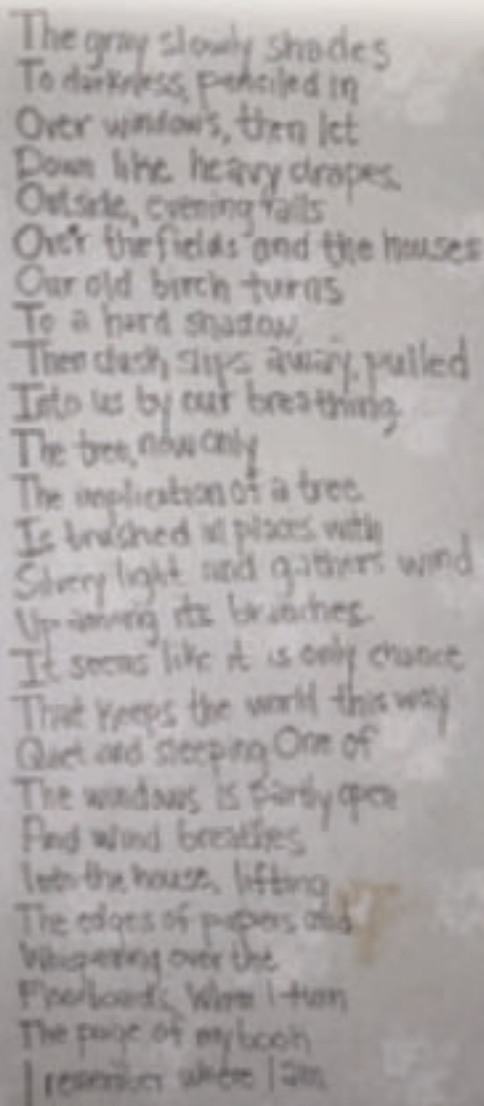
spend their coffee breaks reading the walls.

"I've never had a project that's had such an effect on my life or other people's lives before. I feel like it's been a good way to connect with my family but also a way to introduce them to the things I'm interested in. I don't think they're interested in modern poetry," Schat says with a laugh, then adds, "or at least before they weren't. This is a way they could connect something I'm interested in with their history, which we're both interested in."

"It's made poetry something that is more meaningful to me. Before, it was just a class, and then it became a way to connect with other people, to form relationships with other people, to understand their perspectives."

Aleisa Schat has always made her own way in the world. Now, thanks to two assignments, she knows she has a connection to a little girl who stayed in Sioux County, to a woman in a purple dress.

As she writes in her paper's introduction, "I have stumbled upon my family's story, and I am in the process of making it my own. I am in the process of giving myself a place."



The gray slowly shades
To darkness, penciled in
Over windows, then let
Down like heavy drapes
Outside, evening falls
Over the fields and the houses
Our old birch turns
To a hard shadow
Then dash slips away, pulled
Into us by our breathing
The tree, now only
The implication of a tree
Is brushed all places with
Silvery light and gathers wind
Up among its branches
It seems like it is only chance
That keeps the world this way
Quiet and sleeping. One of
The windows is fairly open
And wind breathes
Into the house, lifting
The edges of papers and
Whispering over the
Floorboards. Where I turn
The page of my book
I remember where I am

Ofcourse

A Heart for Romania

Class:

Romanian Culture Through Experiential Pedagogy and Service-Learning

Instructor:

Dave Nonnemacher, director of service learning

Dave Nonnemacher's love affair with Romania began in 1990. The revolution that toppled despot Nicolae Ceausescu opened the country to the rest of the world, and as news spread of the tens of thousands of children abandoned in orphanages—many with HIV—the thought of Romania, he says, passed over his heart.

It wasn't until 1999, however, that Nonnemacher's interest turned to action. He was director of residence life at NWC when a woman adopting a Romanian child spoke in chapel. She introduced him to For God's Children International (FGCI), a Christian ministry focusing on institutionalized children in Romania. Six months later, he joined one of the organization's mission teams on his first trip to Romania.

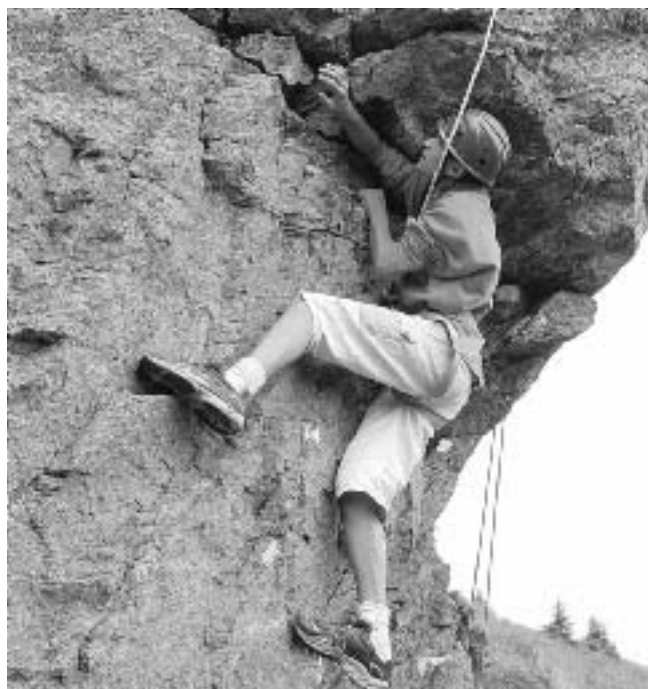
Nonnemacher has returned to Romania and neighboring Moldova 10 times since then, either alone or on service projects with FGCI, including one with members of the Northwestern baseball team he coaches. This summer, however, he spent three weeks in Romania in a different kind of role: teaching Northwestern students through one of the college's summer study abroad courses.

The class partnered with New Horizons Foundation, an organization committed to providing a moral foundation for Romanian youth through experiential education. The students planned and led a four-day adventure education experience for 25 Romanian teenagers.

Group initiatives, rock climbing and a ropes course taught the youth trust and dependence in a country where apathy, suspicion and opportunism are the norm. For the Northwestern students, meanwhile, concepts covered in education, sociology, psychology and physical education classes were put into practice and made real through the service-learning component of the course.

More importantly, another generation was introduced to the great needs that exist in Romania.

Amanda Kirkpatrick, a junior art major from Story City, Iowa, was among the Northwestern students who participated in the summer study abroad course. Like Nonnemacher, she has long been interested in Romania. She remembers, as a 10-year-old, watching a television program about the country's orphans and wanting to go to Romania.



Northwestern students used rock climbing, a ropes course and other adventure education experiences to help teach Romanian youth values such as trust and compassion for others.

Now she has. It could be, like it was for Nonnemacher, that her initial visit will be the first of many and the beginning of a lifelong love affair.

Reading list:

Exit Into History: A Journey Through the New Eastern Europe by Eva Hoffman

Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History by Robert Kaplan

The Orthodox Way by Bishop Kallistos Ware

Articles written by Vaclav Havel, Miroslav Volf and Robert Putnam

In addition to the above texts, students read books and articles on adventure education and Romanian culture, including *Adventure Programming* and *Lighting the Night: Revolution in Eastern Europe*. They also viewed the DVD "Days of the Miners: Life and Death of a Working Class Culture."

Assignments:

A one-week pre-departure seminar introduced students to experiential learning, adventure education, social capital development, and Romanian culture and language. Members of the class lived with Romanian families and were required to keep a journal, participate in three guided cultural observations, and write several papers.



As a Washington, D.C., law student, Serena Holthe became family to Belinda and Martha. Belinda's family lives off her mother's \$700-per-month disability check, and Martha's apartment building is roach- and rat-infested. Holthe's home was their "safe place."

Defending Deadbeat Dads

by Tamara Fynaardt

Attorney seeks to help divorced parents be a more stable force for their families

Robert and his wife separated nearly a year ago. A construction worker, he makes \$6.50 per hour and often works overtime. His wife has custody of their three children. Robert's child support settlement was recently set at \$510 per month, and he was ordered to pay \$1,250 in arrears (dating back to when his wife filed for support).

Because he's already behind, the child support enforcement

agency is threatening to take away his driver's license. Without his car, Robert might lose his job. His last paycheck already was lower than usual because he had to take several days off for court proceedings. Now he's behind on his rent.*

Deadbeat dad?

"More like dead broke," says Serena Holthe '00, a Maryland Legal Aid Bureau lawyer who represents low-income,

▼

“We’re talking about people who are trying to make their payments, but their child support requirements—and sanctions when payments aren’t made—are overwhelming.”

▲

noncustodial parents whose child support obligations are overwhelming and hindering their ability to be a stable presence in their children’s lives.

Holthe, who was born and raised in Logan, Iowa, graduated at the top of her class from the Catholic University of America’s law school in May 2004. In December she was admitted to the bar.

Her earning potential as a top new lawyer is about \$125,000 per year, which would enable her to quickly pay off her loans and live in an upscale suburb. Instead her new salary is less than a third of that, and she purposely lives in a small upstairs apartment in a poor, multiracial neighborhood of Baltimore.

Holthe’s journey from small-town Iowan to East Coast urbanite began at Northwestern under the mentorship of Dr. Bret Kincaid, a former political science professor who now works with the American Studies Program of the

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities in Washington, D.C.

“When I came to Northwestern, I was typical,” says Holthe, “not interested in poverty or the city. I wanted to go to law school and become a Supreme Court justice. Dr. Kincaid never pushed me, but he asked all the right questions. I learned I had the ‘right and wrong’ part of justice, but not the ‘compassion and mercy’ part.”

After graduation Holthe spent a mission year with City Youth Ministries, an extension of her Summer of Service experience in Jonesboro, Ark. “That year made what I’d learned about the systematic oppression of the poor extremely real,” explains Holthe, adding that the experience reinforced her plans to attend law school. “Speaking up for those who don’t have a voice—that’s become the purpose of my life,” she says.

While in law school, Holthe lived in Esther House in a poor, oftentimes dangerous neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Esther House is a home for Christian women who invest themselves in the surrounding community. Between classes, studying and law internships, Holthe also served as the volunteer youth director at her mostly black church, growing the youth group from a handful of kids to over 30 regular attendees.

This past May, she moved to Baltimore and the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau,

which takes an innovative approach to low-income, noncustodial parents.

“Child support needs to be a *support*, not a *sword*,” says Holthe, who, with her colleagues, is trying to combat the assumption that every noncustodial parent who’s not paying child support is a deadbeat dad. “Many are trying to support their families,” she says, adding that sometimes it’s at the expense of meeting their own basic needs like housing and food.

“We’re talking about people who are trying to make their payments,” says Holthe, “but their child support requirements—and sanctions when payments aren’t made—are overwhelming.” And ultimately causing more harm than good for their families.

▼

“That year made what I’d learned about the systematic oppression of the poor extremely real. Speaking up for those who don’t have a voice—that’s become the purpose of my life.”

▲

In addition to representing clients in court, Holthe’s job also includes child support research, advocacy, outreach and education with community groups, homeless shelters, legislators and others.

With her spare time, Holthe will continue her passion for urban youth ministry. In June she started as part-time youth director at a church across the street from her apartment. Building on the current youth group of five girls, Holthe talks excitedly about using the church’s large building and grounds as a Saturday gathering place—with sports, activities and gospel hip-hop—for the community’s many young people.

Extraordinary woman?

Not really, Holthe would say. “At Northwestern, my eyes were opened more to understand God’s heart—especially for the poor,” she says. “I think all Christians are called to serve the poor. If God blesses you, you’ve got to turn around and bless someone else.”

**Although Robert is a fictional character, the details of his story were drawn from the cases of real clients Holthe and the Legal Aid Bureau represent.*

To read more about Holthe’s legal and volunteer work with inner-city families, visit www.nwciowa.edu/serenaholthe.

Spring sports



Andrew Ortmeier was named GPAC outdoor track male athlete of the year and top male performer at the league meet after setting a conference record of 213-07 in the javelin, winning the discus and placing third in the shot put. At the Sioux City Relays, he won the shot put and discus, placed second in the javelin and finished sixth in the hammer throw.

Baseball

- Finished 13-33 overall and 7-17 in Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) play.
- Codie Zeutenhorst (freshman, Maurice, Iowa) earned NAIA national player of the week honors on April 13 after hitting at a .650 clip, including four home runs and three doubles. He drove in 19 runs as NWC won five of six games.
- Dietrich Jache (senior, San Diego), the Raiders' all-time leader in doubles and runner-up in hits, earned first team all-conference honors. Zeutenhorst and Ryan Fisher (sophomore, Star, Idaho) earned honorable mention.

Men's golf

- Tied for fifth at the conference meet and placed ninth

at regionals.

- TJ Korver (sophomore, Orange City) was named to the all-conference team.
- Aaron Aberson (junior, Orange City) earned honorable mention.

Softball

- Finished with a 37-20 record and placed third in the GPAC with a 15-9 mark.
- Briefly ranked in the top 25 nationally.
- Stacy Friedrichsen (senior, Holstein, Iowa) earned regional and conference pitcher of the year honors.
- Ashley Ratliff (junior, Anaheim, Calif.) and Cristin Vander Weerd (senior, Prairie City, Iowa) joined her on the GPAC first team. Megan McHugh (sophomore, Missouri Valley, Iowa) and Lizz Swanson (freshman, Urbandale, Iowa) were named to the second team.
- Brandi Redel (sophomore, Red Oak, Iowa) earned honorable mention.
- Ratliff, a first baseman, set a school record with 1,221 career putouts.
- McHugh pitched a no-hitter in an 8-0 victory over Mt. Marty.
- Friedrichsen earned GPAC pitcher of the week honors.

Track and field

- Ten Raiders competed at the NAIA national outdoor meet. Andrew Ortmeier (junior, Osmond, Neb.) placed sixth in the shot put with a throw of 52-05.25.

- Nick Fynaardt (sophomore, New Sharon, Iowa) finished eighth in that event with a 51-04.25 toss.
- The men's team placed fifth at the conference meet; the women placed eighth.

Women's golf

- Won the Waldorf Invitational and finished third at the Northwestern Invitational.

Raiders appoint two coaches

Kyle Van Den Bosch



Matt McCarty

Kyle Van Den Bosch has been named head volleyball coach and Matt McCarty '03 has been named defensive coordinator for football.

Van Den Bosch replaces former head coach Mike Meyer '79, who was at the helm for 16 years. The new coach will take over a program that went 21-10 last season and qualified for the NAIA regional tournament.

"We are very excited to have Kyle join our staff," says Athletic Director Barry Brandt. "He is a very gifted volleyball coach who will provide excellent leadership for our program."

Van Den Bosch served most recently as the junior varsity coach at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City, where he led his squad to a 20-2 tally. Previously, he was the head volleyball coach at Calvin Christian School in Escondido, Calif., for six years. In 2000, his team finished in the final four in the state tournament, and Van Den Bosch earned coach of the year honors.

He also served as head volleyball coach at Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa, in 1997 and twice as an assistant coach at Dordt College.

McCarty replaces former defensive coordinator Josh Bolluyt '99, who held the position for four years. McCarty will take over a defense that led the NAIA in several categories last season.

"We are pleased to have Matt join our staff," says Brandt. "His presence will help ensure our commitment to providing quality leadership for the young men who are part of the Northwestern football program. Matt will be an excellent coach and recruiter."

McCarty taught and coached in the Okoboji (Iowa) School District last year, serving as assistant varsity football coach with primary duties for the defense.

A four-year letterman as a defensive back for the Raiders, McCarty was a three-time all-GPAC selection. He earned NAIA honorable mention honors his senior year.

Van Peursem takes reins as alumni board president



Originally from Platte, S.D., Tonya Van Peursem works as a learning and development consultant for Wells Fargo Education Financial Services in Sioux Falls and recently completed an M.B.A.

A four-year member of the National Alumni Board, Tonya Van Peursem '94 became president in February. She views her involvement as a way to reconnect with Northwestern.

Describe your experience as a Northwestern student.

My time at Northwestern was a time of growth. I definitely grew spiritually—through classes, Bible study and the influence of other people. I expanded my view of God and deepened my personal relationship with him. I also grew in relationships with people, learning to get along with others in all sorts of contexts. Academically, Northwestern gave me a good foundation. And I gained confidence in myself.

What have you enjoyed most about your involvement with the alumni board?

It's been awesome to be on campus and connect with the students. There are so many exciting things happening—the quality of teaching, the faith community. I went to Praise and Worship when I was there for the board meeting. When I was a student, there was a small group of people in the choir room for Praise and Worship. To see

the chapel filled with students praising God was so cool, because it's voluntary!

What are some of your goals as National Alumni Board president?

I want to make sure the board is effective and doing all we can to support what's going on at Northwestern. We also want to bring more alumni to campus to talk about their careers and to encourage students in their goals. In the end, we want to find more ways to connect alumni with the campus and with each other.

What can alumni do to get more involved in the life of NWC and with the Alumni Association?

Visit the website and sign up for *Net News*, the alumni e-newsletter, to learn what is happening on campus. If you are close enough, attend events, including reunions and the Gala Auction. If you live farther away, you can plan or participate in alumni gatherings in your area. Then, send us a photo of your event. There are gatherings of Northwestern alumni and friends all over the country, and we'd love to hear about them!

Alumni corner



Karen Woudstra '79, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

I can remember four short years ago when I hardly knew anything about using computers. I was teaching kindergartners and couldn't remember how to e-mail my lunch count to the secretary!

By comparison, my 14-year-old daughter, Jenna, is a natural on the computer, creating PowerPoint presentations for school, instant messaging her friends, designing greeting cards and more.

Then there's Brady, a sophomore here at Northwestern who is working toward a computer science and math degree. For Christmas he gave me *Mom's How-to Computer Manual*. What a practical and great gift! Now I'm not calling him at school as often to say, "Help!"

When I took the alumni director position at Northwestern, I knew I was in for a very stretching, learning and growing time in my life. I was nervous, wondering if I could learn everything I needed to know about using a computer to do so much of my job. What I found out is you learn what you need to learn, to do what you want to do! Life is full of new challenges, but if you have a willing spirit to learn, experiment and try to figure things out, it's amazing what will happen. After all, isn't lifelong learning what Northwestern hopes to instill in us?

Northwestern recently launched a brand new website. Even I can navigate it easily and find whatever information I'm looking for—and then some. The new site will fill you in on what's happening and enable you to update your alumni information, find classmates, and learn about reunions and other alumni gatherings on campus and around the U.S. It will give you a complete picture of Northwestern College today.

If you have a computer with Internet access (and whether you're a novice like me or a whiz like my kids), check it out: www.nwciowa.edu.

And after you check it out, tell your friends or any prospective students to take a peek too, because Northwestern offers a high-quality education that combines faith with learning—and we want more people to know about it. We also want to make sure no one misses out on staying in touch with Northwestern, so visit the site regularly for NWC news and to share what's happening in your life. See you in cyberspace (I learned that word just for this article).

Deaths

Henry De Groot '34, '36, age 89, died on March 27 at Sioux Center Community Hospital. He graduated from Nettleton Business College and worked as an accountant in Sioux Falls before serving in the Army during World War II. After earning a bachelor's degree at the University of Sioux Falls (USF), he completed an M.B.A. at the University of South Dakota and became a certified public accountant. He taught business at USF for seven years before starting Dordt College's business administration department. He retired from Dordt in 1982. He was an active member of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center. Among his survivors are a son and two daughters.

Bob Bonnecroy '38, age 83, died on May 2 at Orange City Health System. He farmed south of Orange City and also worked in shipping at Diamond Vogel Paints. He served on the board of directors of the Orange City Creamery and as regional vice president for American Milk Producers Inc. A member of First Reformed Church, he served as an elder and deacon and taught catechism and Sunday school. An avid horseman, he belonged to the Sabre Saddle Club. He is survived by four children, including **Mary Coulter '70** and **Kathy Meendering '73**.

Herman Eppink '38, age 86, died April 30 in Danville, Ill. He graduated from Iowa State University and served in World War II before working for 42 years as a research engineer for Caterpillar Inc. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington, Ill. Among his survivors are two daughters.

Phyllis (Mulder '45) De Haan, 78, died at her home in Holland, Mich., on Feb. 16. She was employed at Holland Motor Express for 15 years until her retirement, and she served as a deacon at Third Reformed Church. Her survivors include a daughter and a son.

Bill Schol '52, age 72, died Jan. 25 in a Sioux City hospital following a traffic accident. After serving in the military, he worked in Sioux City as an office manager for CIT Financial Corp., an assistant vice president for Home Federal Savings and Loan, and a district manager for the *Sioux City Journal*. He graduated from the University of Washington School for Executive Development and the American Savings and Loan Institute. An advisory board member of the Iowa College Aid Commission, he was a leader in the Boy Scouts and a former president of the Noon Lions Club. He was named a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest honor conferred by the Lions Club International Foundation. Active at Morningside Assembly of God Church, he helped organize mission trips to Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Blanche, and two sons.

Galen De Valois '53, age 71, died from an aneurysm on Nov. 14 at his home in Colorado Springs, Colo. He earned a degree in agronomy at Iowa State University. Following two years of Army service, he worked as a county extension director for some 30 years, retiring in 1990 in Jefferson, Iowa. He also earned a master's degree in adult education from Iowa State. Following his retirement, Galen and his wife, **Marilyn (Lyon '54)**, moved to Dallas, where they attended Christ for the Nations Institute and later participated in various mission projects. They also served as house parents for many of the women students at Christ for the Nations, and Galen directed campus maintenance for four years. Marilyn died of cancer in 2001. Upon attending his 50th reunion, Galen became reacquainted with **Nelva (Keunen '51, '53) Van Zyl**, and they were married last June. In addition to Nelva, he is survived by four children, including **Debra '82**, **Karen Michaelson '88** and **Dave '89**; three stepchildren, including **Scott Van Zyl '78**; and a brother, **Roger '45, '47**.

Laura (De Blauw '58, '60, '61) Vermeer, age 63, died at a hospice in Des Moines on May 3 following a battle with cancer. She taught elementary school in Tipton, Iowa; Orange City; and Sioux Center, retiring in 2002. An avid traveler, she also sang frequently in church and acted in community theatre productions. Among her survivors are two sons and four sisters, including **Elinor Noteboom '49, '73**.

'49

The Rev. Dr. C. Orville Kool, Orange City, is serving in an interim ministry for the First Presbyterian Church of Paullina, Iowa.

'62

Eleanor Blankers represented Sheldon, Iowa, as the 2004 Prairie Queen.

'64

Roger Wyngarden, Constantine, Mich., praises the Lord for good health after being diagnosed with cancer five years ago and undergoing nearly 20 treatments.

'68

Jo Ann Vander Wilt received an Outstanding Educator Award last fall. She teaches special kindergarten in the Granite School District in Salt Lake City, where she will begin her 30th year this fall.

'69

Tom Menning retired as chief of the Albert Lea (Minn.) Police Department in March. He served the department for 30 years and was chief the last 10.

Dr. Jim Vander Velde serves as the development director for the city of Rock Valley, Iowa. He has been involved in economic development since 1986. He also is an adjunct professor at Northwest Iowa Community College. His wife, **Gracia (Wynia)**, is the home health office manager for Hegg Health



Junior college and academy alumni from the class of 1955 enjoying their reunion in May were (front row, left to right): Russ Vande Steeg, Sharon Vande Steeg, Anna Schaap, Norman Schaap, Di Murphy, President Bruce Murphy, Carole (Heemstra) Kempema (academy), Don Kempema, Henrietta Van Maanen; (second row) Bill Muilenburg, Shirley (Van Putten) Muilenburg, Kathleen Ludens '89, Jim Ludens, Connie Duistermars, Verle Duistermars, Arlene (Roos) Lubbers, Charles Lubbers, Lila (Top '56) Netten, Al Netten; (third row) Marlin Vander Wilt, Judy Vander Wilt, Joyce (Wolbrink) Van Gorp, Bill Van Gorp, Aletha (Symens) Prouty, Eva (Van Drie) Schutte, Arda (Schroedermeier) Hoffman, Harriet (Moss) Boote, Rouletta (Van Pykeren) Verbrugge, Nick Verbrugge; (fourth row) Dwight Blankers, Mildred (Horn) Blankers, Irma Beukelman, Eldon Beukelman, LaDonna (Van Klompenburg) Huisman, Carol (Veencamp) Bastemeyer, Norm Bastemeyer '51, Myrna (Harberts) Ver Hoef and Lyle Ver Hoef '54.

Center. The Vander Veldes celebrated their 35th anniversary last August.

'70

Mary (Bonnecroy) Coulter teaches English as a second language at Rice University in Houston.

'72

Dan Te Grotenhuis was named Outstanding Administrator of the Year by the Indiana Counseling Association in February. He is principal at Tzouanakis Intermediate School in Greencastle, Ind.

'73

John Vande Weerd was named the Area Education Agency Four Middle School Principal of the Year for 2005 and was one of three finalists for the state award. He is in his sixth year as principal at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School in Alton, Iowa. He previously was a principal, teacher and coach at

Aurelia Community School, and he also taught and coached at Durant and Harris-Lake Park.

Cornie Wassink was inducted into the Northwest Iowa Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame in April. Northwestern's director of planned giving, he has officiated football and track for 35 years. He also previously officiated six other sports.

'74

Doug Van Meeteren was recently elected to the board of directors of Primebank, where he serves as chief operating officer. Doug has been employed with the bank, which has offices in Sioux Center and Le Mars, since 1981. He and his wife, Jan, live in Sioux Center.

'75

Pete Visser is now employed by Winnebago Industries in Forest City, Iowa, as safety manager. He worked the last 14 years as the safety, health and environment coordi-

nator for Midwest Industries in Ida Grove, Iowa.

The Rev. Paul Wernlund celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination in January. He has served for 20 years at Trinity Church in Brown Deer, Wis. He also is one of the first four chaplains for the Brown Deer Police Department.

'78

Nita (Bloemendaal) Savage has moved from Chicago to New York City, where she works as vice president of finance for Delphi Financial Group, which owns several insurance companies and other financial services firms.

'81

Curt Busch has been hired as principal at Central Lyon High School in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He served as principal at Fairmont (Minn.) High School the last seven years.

Miniprofile

Real, relaxed

by Emily Hennager '06

When Rev. Darrin Kimpson '94 preaches on Sunday mornings, he looks out on people seated at round tables instead of pews, and when he asks the audience a question, he expects people to shout out answers.

At Papio Creek Church, a two-year-old church plant on the south side of Omaha, Neb., this nontraditional approach to church is part of their goal to take the gospel to people who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with church.

"From the beginning, our vision has been that we would be relevant to non-churched people," says Kimpson. "We want people to feel relaxed, not awkward. Here you're not condemned for getting up for a refill of coffee in the middle of the service."

The casual atmosphere, aimed at making church less intimidating and drawing newcomers, is working. From the 12 families that helped start the church, it

has now grown to about 140 people.

"God is constantly bringing us people with heavy burdens," Kimpson says. "We walk alongside people and show them we *all* carry baggage, but we can give it to Jesus and let him carry it."

The process of building these relationships is what made Kimpson want to go into full-time ministry. Though he graduated from Northwestern with a degree in communications, it wasn't until he returned to the college as a resident director that he felt God calling him into ministry. But it was his classes at North American Baptist Seminary that got him interested specifically in church planting.

His wife, Pam (Brinks '97), who also graduated from NWC and seminary, shares his passion for the church and is involved in the children's ministry and leading worship, in addition to caring for their daughters, Brooke, 4, and Maria, 1.

"We're real people in a



Darrin Kimpson leads a growing Reformed Church in America church plant in the Omaha area with a nontraditional approach to reaching people for Christ.

relaxed environment," Kimpson says when describing the church. "We're just

like everyone else; we just happen to be in love with a higher power."

'82

Michael Swanson will begin classes this fall as a graduate student in the University of Michigan's School of Information. He plans to become an archivist or a historical or genealogical librarian. In June, he gave a presentation on the history of the Dutch in Whiteside County, Illinois,

at the biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, held at Dordt College.

'84

Don Bacon has been promoted to colonel in the United States Air Force. He serves at Air Force head-

quarters in Washington, D.C.

Cindy Simmons, Richland, Wash., works for Bechtel National Inc., which has a government contract to build treatment plants for converting nuclear waste into glass for final burial. She served as a missionary with TEAM (The Evangelical

Alliance Mission) in Prague, Czech Republic, from 1998 to 2002.

'85

The Rev. Donovan Drake, Durham, N.C., received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago's McCormick Theological Seminary in May.

'86

Trudie (Garwood) Van Horn and her husband, Alan, ranch near Page, Neb. In recent years, they have begun an outfitting business as well, offering guided hunts and lodging at their ranch. Van Horn Ranch and Outfitters was featured on ESPN II's "Dodge Outfitters Almanac." Trudie home-schools and has recently resumed part-time announcing at KGRD-FM, a Christian radio station. They have four children: Lane (14), Erin (11), Linzie (9) and Merit (5).

'87

Jeff Herzberg began his new position as superintendent of the Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) School District in July. He served as principal at Iowa Falls High School for the last six years. He and his wife, **Wendy (Stonehocker '89)**, have six children: Spencer (18), Tucker (11), Ellie (9), Cloie (6), and twins Gabbie and Sophie (4).

Brian Lenderink has joined MEDTEC in Orange City as vice president of operations. He previously served as the corporate development manager for PSI International in Fairfax, Va.

'88

Steve Grond is the new superintendent of the Boyden-Hull (Iowa) School District. He served as principal at Madison (S.D.) High School the last three years.

The Rev. Bob Rook now serves as pastor of Peace Reformed Church in Sioux City, Iowa. He previously ministered at Haven Reformed Church in Hamilton, Mich., for 11 years. He and his wife, **Holli (Hayunga '87)**, live in Sergeant Bluff with their three children: Devon (14), Micah (11) and Taylor (7).

Ted Schultz recently earned first place honors from the Iowa Newspaper Association for "Best Sports Story" among the state's largest daily newspapers. The sports

editor at the *Clinton Herald* beat out writers from the *Des Moines Register* and *Cedar Rapids Gazette* for top honors. Ted's article featured a student at The Franciscan University who ran cross country despite battling the effects of cerebral palsy.

'91

Kelly Bass Brown was recently appointed as state secretary of the Wyoming Jaycees and as president of the Jackson chapter. A customer service representative for the *Jackson Hole News and Guide* for the last five years, she lives just outside of Jackson with her husband, Carl, and their two cats.

Bob Lorence is working as an assistant principal at an elementary school in Umatilla, Ore.

'92

Israel Jacob was honored by *Bank Investment Consultant Magazine* as one of the top 25 investment representatives of 2004. A financial plan-

ner at People's Bank in Lynden, Wash., since 1997, he also recently earned his certified financial planner designation. His wife, **Julie (Vander Ploeg)**, is an R.N. who is a stay-at-home mom for their children, Lucas, Shelby, Izzabel and Ian.

'93

Dr. Corey Harthoorn and his wife, **Sharon (Davidson '94)**, have been in Malawi, Africa, since August. They are undergoing language study and preparing for medical missions work along with their four children.

Pam Hendel, Crystal, Minn., is the associate director of Huntington Learning Center. She also serves as youth director at Parkway United Church of Christ.

Dave Risius works as a home health physical therapist for Baptist Home Health Network in Little Rock, Ark. His wife, Christy, is a stay-at-home mom.

'94

Mark Vander Zwaag works for the Le Mars Insurance Co. as a personal and farm lines underwriter for Iowa and Oklahoma. His wife, **Jodi (Brooks '98)**, is a sales coordinator for American Identity. They live in Orange City.

Chad Brennenman, Burlington, Iowa, was recently named vice president of marketing and sales at Pro/Data Payroll Services, a regional payroll service provider serving eastern Iowa and west-central Illinois. He has been with the company for nine years. His wife, Abbey, stays at home with their three children.

Chad Jacobsen serves as director of youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church in La Crosse, Wis. In the summer of 2003, he rode his bicycle across the country in memory of his dad, who died of a heart attack on Chad's birthday two years earlier after riding 128 miles with him.



2005 National Alumni Board

Members of Northwestern's National Alumni Board include (counterclockwise from top right): Dave Hughes '86, Sherri (Van Der Vliet '82) Koerselman, Laurie (Wipperling '92) Van Engelenhoven, Dean Koele '83, Dana (Smith '93) Daniels, Karen (Hop '74) Van Der Maaten, Dave Dunkelberger '85, Brian Draayer '91, Perry Krosschell '87, Steve Van Gorp '96, Evonne (Vander Wilt '82) Blankers, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, Tonya Van Peursesem '94, Jennifer (Van Der Werff '89) Zora, Todd Van Wechel '86, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Dan Van Beek '92, Marilyn (Tjeerdsma '78) Feekes, Dawn Huibregtse '98, Nancy (Walhof '87) Landhuis, Laura (Katt '79) Lubach and Darren Kleis '92. Not pictured are Sharla (Vander Wilt '83) Clemens, Curt Mastbergen '84 and Clark Scholten '87.

'95

Giovy Carnet serves on the board of directors for the Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association. She also is pursuing certification to become an official interpreter for state courts.

Dave Haverdink works as an engineer for Jacobs Civil Inc. in St. Louis.

Albert Okine, Orange City, has completed his first year of study in the physician assistant program at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine.

Todd Schuiteman serves as director of corporate finance for Quality Living Inc. in Omaha. His wife, **Deb (Bandstra '96)**, is a performance and development consultant for Physicians Mutual.

Dawn (Van Den Berg) Van Den Bosch and her husband, Kyle, moved to Orange City last summer after living in California for nine years. Kyle taught physical education in the MOC-Floyd Valley School District and served as an assistant coach in volleyball and basketball this past year. He was

named Northwestern's head volleyball coach this winter. Dawn is a stay-at-home mom and a consultant for Southern Living at HOME.

Susan (Van Rees) Van Geest works as an associate professor of art at Dordt College. Her husband, Fred, is an associate professor of political and environmental studies at Dordt. They have a daughter, Julia (1).

Jeff Wright has been practicing law with the Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City since 1998. He became a partner in 2004. His wife, **Ann (Pelzer '96)**, stays at home with their two sons, Jackson (6) and Daniel (3), after running an in-home day-care for five years.

'96

Dr. Elise (Rens) Binsfeld, Blaine, Minn., works part time as a family practice physician with the Columbia Park Medical Group in Fridley.

Karla (Ploeger) Geyer, Clarence, Iowa, serves as an accountant for the Davenport Community School District. Her husband, Tim, is the technology coordinator for the North Cedar Community School District. They have a son, Luke (1).

Kim (Krosch) Rieck, Hartley, Iowa, graduated in May with a master's degree in health care administration from the University of South Dakota. She serves as director of laboratory/ancillary services at Spencer Family Care-Avera Health. She and her husband, **Brent '95**, have three children: Jaylin (8), Kenna (6) and Kyler (5).

Jenifer (Simm) Van Noord and her husband, Kurt, have moved to Grand Haven, Mich., where Kurt serves as youth director at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds. They have a son, Blaze (1).

'97

Jackie (Hueser) Budden teaches second grade in the Newton (Iowa) Community School District. She previously taught special education.

Brad Schelling is the director of youth ministries at First Reformed Church in Sioux Falls.

Deb Schleusener is working with International Students Inc. (ISI) at the University of Washington in Seattle. Through ISI, she is helping international students practice their English and learn about American

culture, while she shares Christ with them through friendship evangelism.

The Rev. Derek Vande Slunt has accepted a call as pastor of Interlaken (N.Y.) Reformed Church. He previously served at Owasco (N.Y.) Reformed Church. He and his wife, **Tina (Jackson)**, have a son, Noah.

'98

Mark Andersen graduated with an M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary in May. He now serves as the pastor at Herkimer (N.Y.) Reformed Church.

Sara Veldhuizen Stealy is a marketing associate for RSM McGladrey Inc. in Raleigh, N.C.

Jon Wester, Victorville, Calif., teaches seventh grade mathematics and physical education for the Snowline School District.

Amber (Soldan) Widstrom and her family recently moved to Omaha, where she continues to work as a physician assistant in the Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine Department at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

'99

Allyson (Vander Zwaag) Braasch graduated in May from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. She will do her residency in internal medicine-anesthesiology there.

Nathan Johnson has joined his wife, Lori, on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. They live in Madison, Wis.

Nathan Kroesche is a supervisor at the Minnehaha Juvenile Detention Center in Sioux Falls.

Jill (Schreurs) Schillerberg has been an officer with the Omaha Police Department for the past five years.

Alumni: What's new with you?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to beeson@nwciowa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the fall *Classic* is Aug. 2.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Home phone _____ Class of _____
 E-mail _____
 Current employer(s) _____

Mini profile

Rescue by alum gains national media attention

by Amy Scheer

As a resident assistant at Northwestern, Craig Dalen '03 and the men of Colenbrander Hall would spend evenings together on the dorm floor, hashing out the day's learning.

Lifelong friendships began on those floors, says Dalen, and much of his education happened there, outside of the classroom.

Now a resident director at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, the Mission Viejo, Calif., native has kept his preferred pedagogical style, and one project has gained national attention.

Dalen and Messiah student Jordan Windholz planned a 60-mile, six-day spring break hike through Great Smoky Mountains National Park, located in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, to build the bond of the men who work under Dalen in residence life.

"It was a time to grow in friendships and learn from one another," Dalen says.

The second day into their March trek, the group of six men had to scale back their goals due to especially cold and icy conditions. They took a break at a shelter on the Appalachian Trail.

Four other men were occupying the shelter. One of them was shivering uncontrollably.

Matthew Schultz, a freshman from North Carolina State University, was shaking and slurring his speech. He had trouble remembering his birth date. His fellow hikers hadn't recognized the classic signs of hypothermia.

The Messiah group fed Schultz hot liquids and kept him warm while observing the others for symptoms.

After stabilizing Schultz, Dalen and fellow Messiah resident director Ryan Wilson set out for the nearest ranger's station, which was 12 miles away with some tricky river crossings and steep inclines in between. Six hours later, they found



Craig Dalen (front) and fellow Messiah College resident director Ryan Wilson were involved in the rescue of a hypothermic hiker on the Appalachian Trail.

the station unmanned, but soon saw a ridge runner's house nearby. The runner, who maintains the trails, radioed for help.

Park rangers determined that Schultz was receiving good care and decided not to go out after nightfall under the dangerous conditions. Dalen and Wilson stayed at the house, while their friends wondered what had happened to them.

The rangers arrived at 7 the next morning to find Schultz pink-skinned and running a normal temperature. Too weak to hike, he was airlifted to a nearby hospital. Meanwhile, the Messiah group was reunited with hugs and sighs of relief.

In the weeks following the rescue, the groups have exchanged emotional e-mails and letters. "The letter that Matt's mom wrote brought tears to our eyes; she showed a lot of gratitude and emotion. It was the first time [I realized] how large this was, how this impacted many people," says Dalen.

USA Today, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and regional newspapers ran articles on the rescue. The Weather Channel showed video footage, and CNN mentioned it. The group is surprised at the national attention.

"We thought we were going up to the mountain for ourselves, but it seemed like we were there for a different reason," says Dalen.

Jason Sniff recently earned a master's degree in educational psychology (counseling) at Baylor University. He serves as the associate director of residence life at Colorado Christian University and also works in the campus counseling center.

'00

Nancy (TerHorst) Dickmann works as the marketing/public relations director for Hegg Memorial Health Center in Rock Valley, Iowa. Her husband, Justin, is a John Deere technician with Stueven Repair.

Chad Fikse graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in October 2003 and opened Fikse Chiropractic in Sully, Iowa, a month later.

Emily Gosselink is the associate dean of students at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga.

Kevin Noffsinger graduated with honors from Logan College of Chiropractic in 2003. He opened a chiropractic office, New Hope Family Chiropractic and Rehab, with his wife last fall in Denver.

Planned giving notes



Cornie Wassink '73
Director of Planned
Giving

How to help your lawyer—and yourself

Before meeting with your attorney about your estate plan, you can do some things to save time and money. Here are four tips:

1. Prepare an inventory of your estate.

Since your estate plan will essentially direct the transfer of your assets at death, you should compile a list of all your holdings and obligations. What do you own? How much is it worth? Where is it located? How are the various assets owned (jointly, separately, etc.)? List any memberships (country club, time-shares, etc.). What are the beneficiary designations on your bank, brokerage and retirement accounts, and your insurance policies? How much do you owe and to whom?

This will take some time and force you to get all your records in order. But the process will be instructive and save you time when you meet with your attorney. It's easy to overlook some assets, so be as thorough as possible.

2. Select key people you want to involve.

Who do you want to oversee the probating of your estate (i.e., be your personal representative)? Who do you want to serve as the trustee of any trusts created by your will? Who do you want to be the guardians of any minor children? And don't forget about your power-of-attorney and health care documents.

You will need not only primary names, but also back-ups in case your first choices are unable or unwilling to serve. If possible, have two additional names for each position.

Making these arrangements before visiting your attorney will make things much easier.

3. Decide what to give family members.

This can be one of the most difficult parts of the whole process. Indeed, some people endlessly delay making a will because this step is either too perplexing or painful.

There are many issues to consider. Too much inheritance may stifle personal initiative and feelings of self-worth. One child may be careless with money, another disciplined. One may have physical needs that require extra assistance. One may be self-sufficient, another financially strapped. How much is too much? How little is too little?

You might want to discuss this subject with a trusted friend or personal adviser. Remember, you can always change your mind later. The important thing is to at least get a plan in place for now.

4. Determine your charitable bequests.

Which organization(s) do you want to support with gifts from your estate? Of course, we at Northwestern College hope you will include us in your plans. Your estate gift will make a difference and help us continue training students for lives of purpose in God's kingdom.

You should also consider supporting your church with a bequest. If designed properly, your bequest can enhance the church's ministry while avoiding a negative impact on weekly giving.

A charitable giving component to your estate plan can have significant meaning to your survivors and communicate your values in a powerful way. It can also help you establish a legacy that will outlive your children and grandchildren.

I am available to help you integrate your giving goals with your overall estate plan and prepare for a visit with your attorney. You can reach me at 712-707-7109 or cwassink@nwcwiowa.edu.

Dawn (Pulscher) Olijnek lives in Norfolk, England, and works as a family life educator for the U.S. Air Force. Her husband, Matt, is an Air Force captain who is supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Persian Gulf.

John Paul Sundararajan has been appointed as a Reformed Church in America missionary, working as the India-Asia director for Audio Scripture Ministries. He continues to serve as director of teen ministries at Montello Park Church in Holland, Mich.

Rachel (See) Valentine works as coordinator of Dordt College's Safe Campus Project, which seeks to prevent violent or threatening interactions against women; support them in dealing with unwanted interactions; and establish policies and procedures relating to awareness, prevention and support services for women. Rachel earned a master's degree in counseling psychology at Trinity International University and most recently worked as a quality assurance specialist at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire, Ill.

'01

Susan Blom, costumer in the Dordt College theatre department, received a regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival award this January for her costume designs for *The Greeks: The Murders*.

Erin (Johnson) Cox graduated in May with a master's degree in college student affairs from Azusa Pacific University. She works as a resident director at William Jessup University in Rocklin, Calif., and is also in charge of much of the programming for new student orientation.

Justin De Jong continues to live in Chicago and recently accepted a new position as communications manager for the state of Illinois, supporting media relations for the state's economic development

department. In his spare time, he stays active in the state's political scene, including recent work to support the election of Senator Barack Obama.

Beth (Holznagel) Hautala and her husband, Aaron, are in their second year of business ownership, operating RedHouseMedia, an advertising/marketing agency and custom publishing house. They own a historical home in Brainerd, Minn. Beth sends a warm hello to the De Koffie Boon crowd and the Heemstra Frisbee men.

'02

Beth (Aalbers) Baca earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kansas and is now working for the university's Department of Aging and Elderly.

Paul Knudson earned a master's degree in sociology from the University of North Dakota this spring. He will enter a doctoral program in sociology at the State University of New York at Albany this fall.

George Kockler left the athletic enhancement field in 2004 to pursue a career in venture capital investing in the Twin Cities area. He also is co-owner of Golf Landscapes and Sport Surfaces, which designs and installs custom putting greens and athletic courts for homeowners. And he is a consultant for A-Turf, which installs synthetic grass athletic fields for high school, college and professional teams.

Amanda Magnuson graduated in May from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a master's degree in English. Her thesis committee included U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and Hilda Raz, editor of *Prairie Schooner*.

Matt Ulmer graduated from the University of Iowa's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in December. He serves as a therapist at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

in Lincoln, Neb., working with patients suffering from spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, strokes, and orthopedic and cardiac difficulties.

Darcie (Van Beek) Van Voorst is a school liaison officer in the George-Little Rock School District and the Central Lyon School District in Iowa.

'03

Jared Belden earned an M.F.A. degree in creative writing at Eastern Washington University. He will be teaching at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn., this fall. He was among seven poets who won awards in the 2005 Association of Writers and Writing Programs' Intro Journals contest. His poem "Engine of the Ticket Taker's Pocket Watch" will appear in *Artful Dodge*, an Ohio-based literary magazine.

Justin Denning works as assistant manager of Sack Lumber Company in Aurora, Neb.

'04

In September, **Jon Behrends** will begin a two-year term as a missionary to the Czech Republic through Christian Outreach International. Jon previously ministered through that agency in the Czech Republic during the A cappella Choir's spring tour in 2004.

Kaley (Fahl) Poegel serves as the lead teacher at the Sylvan Learning Center in Baxter, Minn.

Amy Ropte works at Raven Industries in Sioux Falls as a web developer.

Brian Young is serving with the Peace Corps in the mountains of Comayagua in Honduras.

New Arrivals

Angie and **Don Bacon '84**, children by adoption, Austin (10) and Jessica (9), join Donnie (20) and Alex (15).

DeAnn and **Phil Nielsen '85**, twin

daughters from Ethiopia by adoption, Keisha and Sheila, join Jessie, Eric, Isaac and Reece.

Kim and **Dave Christianson '87**, daughter, Mikayla Rose, joins Mark (6) and Jacob (2).

Dan and **Diane (Ohling '88) Scott**, daughter, Sarah Marie.

Matt and **Rachel (Korthals '91) Sullivan**, son, Levi John, joins Noah (5) and Caleb (3).

Susan (Stander '92) and Cory Brandt '92, daughter, Megan Ann, joins Katlin (10) and Brianna (6).

Chris and **Lisa (Burris '92) Ciccarelli**, son, Spencer Dean, joins Ally (5).

Kathy and **Chris Godfredsen '92**, daughter, Anna Kate, joins Josie (11), Madison (8) and Alex (2). Heather and **Darren Kleis '92**, son, Corbin Keith.

Robin (Bajema '93) and Steven Korthuis '93, twin daughters, Karlie and Kenadi, join Jenah (8), Kolton (6) and Levi (3).

Christy and **Dave Risius '93**, son, Nathan Andrew, joins Allison (3).

Sue (Reynen '93) and Jack Shields '94, son by adoption, Jackson Robert, joins Sara (8), Julia (5) and Jace (3).

Dale and **Tonia (Bach '93) Woudstra**, daughter, Hannah Grace, joins Zachary (4).

Amy (Verdoorn '94) and Abe Scheaffer '93, daughter, Gracia Diane, joins Elliot (2).

Sara and **Dave Haverdink '95**, son, Dawson Robert, joins Brandon (7), Alyssa (5) and Cameron (3).

Kyle and **Dawn (Van Den Berg '95) Van Den Bosch**, son, Jackson Thomas.

Kara (Dirkx '96) and Trent Abrahamson '94, daughter, Jada. Charlie and **Elise (Rens '96) Binsfeld**, daughter, Simone Elise, joins Elliott (3).

Mark and **Jenna (Messer '96) LaFleur**, son, Rohan Jacob Messer.

Deb (Bandstra '96) and Todd Schuiteman '95, son, Brayden Robert.

Dave and **Amy (De Boer '96) Ver Burg**, daughter, Abigail Joy, joins

Joshua (5) and Jacob (3).

Chad and **Jackie (Hueser '97) Budden**, son, Davis John, joins Grant (3).

Vicki (Grooters '97) and Mark Nieman '96, son, Spencer Lee.

Erika and **Brad Schelling '97**, daughter, Morgan Jane, joins Josiah (5) and Kaci (2).

Cory and **Lynn (Bleeker '98) Grimm**, daughter, Elizabeth Carly, joins Kester (2).

Jodi (Brooks '98) and Mark Vander Zwaag '93, son, Brenden James, joins Makayla (6).

Stefawn and **Jon Wester '98**, daughter, Ella Jayden, joins Faith (3). Jess and **Amber (Soldan '98)**

Widstrom, daughter, Hannah.

Missy and **Chris Winterboer '98**, son, Caden Christopher, joins Emma (2).

Sara (Maassen '99) and Curt Andringa '99, son, Trenton Curtis.

Monte and **Sherry (Groen '99) Koopman**, daughter, Lisa Ann.

Kristin (Meyer '99) and Nathan Kroesche '99, son, Isaiah Scott.

Mick and **Tami (Kunkel '99) Langel**, daughter, Leah Joy, joins Alec (6), Katelyn (4) and Rachel (2).

Karinda (Trumble '00) and Scott de Boom '01, son, Ian John.

Justin and **Nancy (TerHorst '00) Dickmann**, son, Carter.

Greg and **Carrie (Chittick '00) Dietze**, son, Daniel, joins Camden (14) and Ashley (5).

Lynnette (Van Gorp '00) and Chad Fikse '00, son, Evan Jacob.

Stacy (Bernardy '00) and Justin Halbersma '02, son, Micah Douglas Ray.

Sheri (Bakker '00) and Jerod Work '00, son, Peyton Harley.

Meagan (Morrison '01) and John Liesveld '00, son, Johnny Jack.

Andrew and **Kylie (Van Dyke '01) Prasuhn**, daughter, Rebekah Ann, joins Trenton (2) and Jacob (1).

Elizabeth (Heeg '01) and Tom Truesdell '01, son, Aiden Thomas.

Andy and **Ginger (De Boer '02) Ebel**, daughter, Grace Marie.

Rodrick and **Maria (Olson '02) Iedema**, son, Isaiah Mikkail.

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82,
Chaplain

Brennan Van Loo, a senior biology major from Lynden, Wash., was a student discipleship coordinator this past year. Part of his responsibility was to encourage prayer ministry as we seek to be a campus that “does things by prayer” rather than “praying for the things we do.” As Brennan served, he made a list of some of the times and places prayer happens on Northwestern’s campus:

- Before and after exams
- With discipleship groups in residence halls
- At athletic teams’ Bible studies
- With athletic teams before/after games or practices
- In academic department meetings
- At faculty meetings
- At staff meetings
- When enacted by the Drama Ministries Ensemble
- Prior to music concerts and performances
- At music rehearsals
- Before/after theatre rehearsals and performances
- In meetings of students of various majors
- In classes

- In private reflection
- In Student Government Association meetings
- In resident assistant meetings
- In the International Justice Mission tent
- During Summer of Service team meetings and ministry
- Before/during/after service projects
- In a men’s prayer breakfast
- At a weekly faculty/staff/student prayer gathering
- At meals
- At cheerleading practice
- In Centering Prayer, a bi-monthly Thursday evening prayer time
- In chapel
- In Sunday night Praise and Worship
- In the prayer room of the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation
- By alumni and friends of NWC

Prayer is an integral part of all we do at NWC as we experience the power and presence of God. Please add yourself to Brennan’s list by offering regular prayers for Northwestern College.



**Look for your Homecoming brochure in the mail
and visit www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming**

- Register online at www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming/register
 - Reunions for the classes of 1965, '80, '95 and '00
- Saturday’s activities include Raider Road Race, Morning on the Green kids’ carnival (featuring cruisin’ cars from the '50s!), alumni baseball and softball games, picnic at Jaycee Park, football, a theatre production and more.

Marriages

- Nathan Johnson '99 and Lori Achtelik, Madison, Wis.
Micah Johnson '00 and Amy Miclean, Gainesville, Fla.
Kevin Noffsinger '00 and Brianna Wolfe, Aurora, Colo.
John Paul Sundararajan '00 and Katy Wing, Holland, Mich.
Melinda McConnell '02 and Ryan Finken, Omaha.
Tisha Templer '02 and Bryan Halverson, Peterson, Iowa.
Melanie Vigneron '02 and Mark Saffly, North Liberty, Iowa.
Tim Van Gelder '03 and Andrea Ackerman '05, Iowa City, Iowa.
Jason Grow '04 and Lindsay Pearle Harrison, Waukegan, Iowa.
Dan Breen '06 and Kristin Westenberg '06, Orange City.

The couples reside in the city listed.

Syllabus for Life

by Heidi Friesen '04

Peter burst into barely controlled laughter, almost spewing his spicy Mos burger at my bewildered face. "Syllabi?" he repeated, then swallowed and took a breath. "Lesson plans?" I took his reaction as a definitive no.

August, and it was my first day in Shimonoseki. I was trying to think of good questions to ask my new coworker. I wanted answers that would satisfy the one question weighing heaviest on my mind—the one I was least likely to admit that I had, let alone find the humility to ask: "What am I supposed to be doing?"

A month later, I was eating a delicious meal of kawara-soba with my neighbor, Bill. Over the green noodles, thinly sliced beef and shredded scrambled eggs, he asked me how teaching was going. My chopsticks twisted around in the mess of soy-soaked soba. I struggled to explain how the other teachers did usually give me material to teach, albeit five minutes before my lessons, but they neglected to instruct me on how to get it into the students' heads.

Bill had no mercy. "That's your job. You have to figure out your own teaching style." He smiled. My heart sank. I fought the challenge in his statement because it required initiative without definition. I wanted a syl-

labus for life.

I came to teach English to junior and senior high girls at Baiko Jo Gakuin for many reasons. Cross-cultural communication, language and opportunities for contextualized theatre were passions I began to recognize in my heart when I was a senior in college last year. Serving Northwestern by reestablishing the connection with one of its sister schools and paying off my loans quickly were important factors too.

Also on my list somewhere was a reason I had never truly committed myself to before. I wanted to choose a context and set of responsibilities in which I had no guarantee of success if I relied on my own strength. Teaching English in Japan more than qualified, so I came. The trick with launching yourself off the side of the swimming pool is that you have to fly through the air a little while before you reach your daddy's arms. But he is certainly there to catch you.

To me, piano has usually meant practicing and polishing a single piece for months. I have regarded playing easier songs on request as both risky and demeaning, so I have avoided doing so. Then, last October, I started playing for Morisaku-sensei's monthly college Bible study.

I was sitting at the piano during December's meeting, comfortable with my lack of comprehension amid the

usual muddle of Japanese explanation, when the fearful word unexpectedly emerged: "Requests?" My hands tensed and splayed out into anti-fists. "Ki Yoshi Kono Yoru?" I flipped anxiously through the pink plastic book. My eyes battled a pulsing fluorescent glare for the right to see the music on each laminated page.

"Silent Night." Our worship was beautiful, owing very little to the tolerable accompaniment I produced. The song ended. My fingers slid off the keys and rested peacefully in my lap.

When the head of the English department asked me to put together a skit for this school year's opening ceremony, I automatically recoiled. Creating a show inside the inevitable cultural restrictions and outside the necessary theatrical guidelines was sure to violate my theatre standards, overwhelm my student actors, and disappoint the school.

I breathed in through clenched teeth. Then I remembered I had prayed for this opportunity. I breathed out through a determined, delighted grin and so became playwright, director and stage manager of Baiko's first "Welcome Performance."

I made memorization deadlines, scrubbed sticky props, coached pronunciation and negotiated with the Japanese administration on how the handbell table could



Heidi Friesen helps her English Club students with a crossword puzzle.

coexist with the play's dodgeball antics. I loved the work. I had an ensemble. We had a show. It had the bright-eyed interest and enthusiastic applause of the Baiko community.

April, and I tossed back the long, yellowed curtains to let in the afternoon sun. Settling myself into the circle of wooden chairs, I looked into the faces of my apprehensive new students.

"Do you know the word 'risk'?" They looked back at me with squinty incomprehension. "If you take a risk, many things can happen—maybe something bad, maybe something very good. If you know you are safe, then you can take a risk. If you take a risk, then you can learn. You are safe here."

I helped them understand the questions on their handout, then made space for them to share their answers.

"What does your name mean, Megumi?" She looked at her paper, then back up at me. She did not know the English, so we worked her answer out together.

Grace.

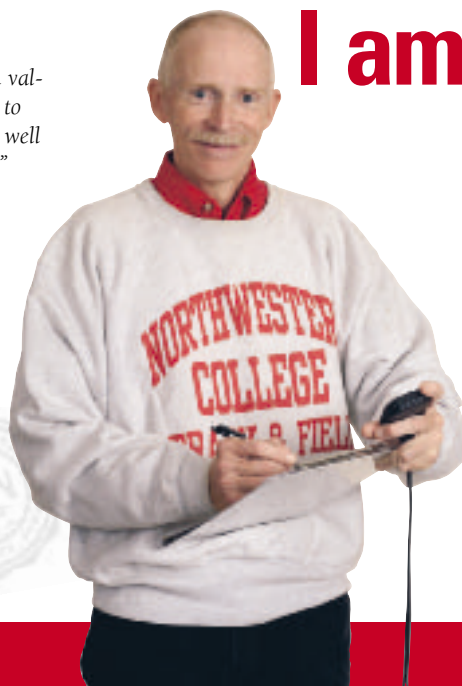
A theatre and speech graduate, Heidi Friesen is teaching English to middle school and high school girls at Baiko Jo Gakuin school in Shimonoseki, Japan.

Send your Classic thoughts to beeson@nwciowa.edu

Change Service Requested

"Athletic teams become micro-schools that teach values and enable students to be better competitors as well as better human beings."

Dale Thompson
Assistant vice president
for student development,
head cross country coach
and assistant track coach



I am Northwestern

You can't compartmentalize your life—growth in one area affects all the other areas. In 23 years of coaching, I've seen that proved over and over. It happens on the cross country and track teams and in intramural competition. Sport teaches core values such as discipline and commitment and reinforces the importance of not compromising. As one of Northwestern's sport facilities, the Rowenhorst Student Center is a place where students grow in life and faith through the fun stuff that happens in the college years. Your contribution to the Northwestern Fund supports things like sports and friendly competition that take learning beyond the classroom.

Northwestern College

A whole education for your whole life.

Contact Jennie Smith, director of the Northwestern Fund, to find out how you can support athletic and student life programs. Phone: 712-707-7110; e-mail: smith@nwciowa.edu; visit: give.nwciowa.edu

POP QUIZ:

1. Chemistry major Michael Schneider plays soccer and basketball. So what does the Grand Ole Opry have to do with his future?
2. The Northwestern Alumni Association's Golf Auction in February raised \$33,000 for student scholarships. What's the total amount of money raised since the first auction was held in 1983?
3. Writing and rhetoric graduate Jeannine Louis '04 went from parajumping during her semester abroad to butchering chickens in her first job. Where does this adventuresome alum work?

For answers to these questions and more,
visit Northwestern College's NEW website @

www.nwciowa.edu